

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

January 1996



'Designing Water-Smart' focuses on Western style horticulture

A new wave of gardening is gaining popularity. Whether you call it Water-Smart Gardening™, Xeriscaping™ or environmentally friendly planting, it is based on common sense.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Water Department will present a one-day "Designing a Water-Smart Garden" workshop March 8 and 9 to share this common sense with you.

The program — the same both days — begins with an introduction by author, gardener and botanical illustrator Rob Proctor.

Then David Winger, conservation specialist for Denver Water, presents "Seven Principles of Low-Water Landscaping," an overview of designing with water and plant zones to create a distinctive Western style garden.

In "The Water-Smart Landscape: Where to Begin?" landscape designer and gardener Marcia Tatroe shows you water-conserving garden design. With careful planning, your water-smart landscape can reflect the personality of your household.

If you are unfamiliar with trees and shrubs best suited for Rocky Mountain gardens, landscape designer Al Rollinger introduces you to a wide range of plants that will give your landscape structure and year-round beauty in his talk, "Trees and Shrubs for Front Range Gardens."

Susan Yetter, landscape designer and perennial grower, will highlight xeric and native grasses and companion plants that offer multi-season interest and evoke our regional natural landscape in "Graceful Grasses."

Two of the area's top perennial experts, Ray Daugherty and Kelly Grummons, will talk on "Water-Smart Perennials with Panache," tried and true perennials for your yard.

The plants suggested in this workshop were selected carefully to illustrate what will grow in Colorado. They are featured in the new book *Xeriscape Plant Guide* by Denver Water and American Waterworks Association, illustrated by students in the Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Illustration. Many of its illustrations will be on display during the program.

The fee for either day is \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers and \$38 for students with proof of full-time status. Fees, except student rate, include handouts and lunch.

Please register early, as space is limited: 370-8019 or 370-8020.



DBG's new Water-Smart Garden (pictured, above, at its September dedication) will be one of the educational references for the "Designing a Water-Smart Garden" workshop March 8 and 9.

'96 SCFD free days set

Free days at Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum have been set for 1996. These free days for Colorado residents are made possible by funds from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

Denver Botanic Gardens

- April 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- May 6, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- June 3, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- July 1, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Aug. 5, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sept. 2, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Oct. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chatfield Arboretum

- First Friday of the month 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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DBG & *Horticulture* magazine will sponsor symposium on small gardens.

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From the executive director

Fall is a time we often take for reflection and for beginning steps toward projects in the coming year. So it has been this fall with the beginning of construction of DBG's new O'Fallon Perennial Walk, named in honor of the Martin J. and Mary Anne O'Fallon Trust which generously supported this wonderful feature.

The founders of the Gardens dreamed of having numerous high quality gardens featuring the best in horticulture suitable for the Rocky Mountain region. Years ago a perennial garden and annual beds were installed along the path leading south from the Boettcher Education Center. Over the years this garden has become less and less interesting and in need of a major renovation.

With the help of the O'Fallon Trust this is being accomplished. A new perennial walk, conceived by Geoffrey Rausch of Environmental Planning and Design, designed by Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer and the horticulture staff, is underway with a brick pathway leading through the center.

While the planting will not occur until spring, the new O'Fallon Perennial Walk is a fitting way to end the fall, restoring excellence to this garden, and with the promise of glorious displays as early as next summer.

—Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Community Gardens has rare openings

The DBG Community Gardens Program has a few garden plots open for 1996. If you would like to learn how to implement organic gardening principles, contribute to a healthful and beautiful urban environment and put in some physical exertion in exchange for fresh vegetables and flowers, call 370-8042 to investigate this rare opportunity.

Green Thumb News January 1996

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Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for March issue: Jan. 19

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Hubert, long-time volunteer, to lead '96 plant sale

Irene Hubert, long-time DBG sale volunteer, has stepped up to fill the 1996 Plant and Book Sale chairperson position.

Hubert has volunteered at the sale for more than 10 years, most recently as the leader of the north gate cashiers. At the sale, she is best known as the "straw hat lady" because of the crazy straw hats she's famous for. Hubert gives Channel 4 gardener Matt Mateyka a run for his money!

Hubert's public relations and marketing experience and her deep knowledge of how the sale has developed through the years should make her a "natural" as the volunteer leader. With five months until plant sale, she has already begun planning how to make this sale the most exciting and successful ever.

The sale is Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11. Watch for more information in future issues of *Green Thumb News*.

Share DBG seasons as volunteer guide

You can share the seasons of Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum with visitors of all ages as a volunteer guide. Feb. 27 is the first training session for Outdoor Tour Guides and Chatfield Arboretum Naturalist Guides.

Each of these guide training programs continues at its respective site, the York Street group for six Wednesdays and the Chatfield group for eight Tuesdays. Materials fee for the outdoor York Street guide course is \$15; for the Chatfield course it is \$25. For more information, or to register, please contact the education office, 370-8020. Courses for Preschooler Tour Guides and Sensory Garden Guides will begin in May.

You can learn more about guiding in general by attending an open house for tour guides March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon in John C. Mitchell II Hall. While you enjoy light refreshments, experienced guides will answer your questions and explain more about the five guiding programs at DBG.

Although the open house is free, reservations are required. Call 370-8020, bring a friend and discover the fun and excitement of DBG's volunteer corps.

Horticulture, DBG hold February symposiums with national, local experts on small gardens

Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 5 and 6, Denver Botanic Gardens and *Horticulture* magazine present two symposiums on designing and caring for gardens in small spaces. They bring together some of today's foremost designers and plants-people to share their experience in combining balance, rhythm and composition, and their insight into the practical realities of seasonal maintenance.

Feb. 5 local specialists will help gardeners achieve their own intimate gardens, with "Creating Intimacy — What Works in Denver." Rob Proctor, Eleanor Welshon, Diane Ipsen and Panayoti Kelaidis are the speakers on Rocky Mountain horticulture.

In his talk "Mastering Small Spaces: Perennial Microclimates" author, gardener and plantsman Rob Proctor helps you discover the possibilities of growing perennials. By taking advantage of different conditions, you can create small gardens from shady glens to blazing "hell strips."

If you have space for only one or two spectacular plants, learn which ones to use to create a focal point. Eleanor Welshon will share her favorite plants in "High Impact Perennials for Small Spaces."

"A Sampler of Sensational Plants" by landscape architect Diane Ipsen will show you plants with references — those with proven records in this region. These plants have "the right stuff": good looks, low maintenance and at least three seasons of interest.

In his talk "Nature in a Nutshell" Panayoti Kelaidis, curator of DBG's Rock Alpine Garden and coordinator of the Gardens' horticultural evaluation program, shows how selecting compact perennials will let you create a miniature mountain, a woodland or a trough garden with the suggestion of the wild.

Feb. 6, *Horticulture* magazine's symposium features designer James David, garden writer Helen Dillon, floral designer Thomas Hobbs and plantsman Daniel J. Hinkley.

In "Inspired by Tuscany" David, a well-known lecturer and the owner of a specialty nursery and garden shop in Texas, addresses a new approach to structuring small spaces. His personal garden, inspired by years of travel in Europe, has been featured in many publications, including *Horticulture*.

Dillon, a passionate gardener, presents artful design solutions in "Mingling, Multilayering and Sequencing." She is the author of *Garden Artistry: The Secrets of Designing and Planting a Small Garden* and *The Flower Garden*, a practical guide to planning and planting. She is co-editor of *In an Irish Garden*.

"Pots with Panache, Terraces to Live On" by Hobbs, Canada's premier floral designer, shows

you how to maximize the pleasures of gardening close-up. He is co-owner of Southlands, a specialty nursery in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Hobbs, a shop that specializes in garden ornaments.

Hinkley presents "Architecture & Illusion," a plant collector's solution to limited space. Hinkley is a plant collector, horticulturist and co-owner of Heronswood, a mail-order nursery in Kingston, Wash., that specializes in rare and unusual perennials and woody plants. His first book, *Winter Ornaments*, was published in 1993.

Registration fee for both Feb. 5 and 6, is \$129 for DBG members, \$149 for *Horticulture* magazine subscribers, \$159 for nonmembers and \$86 for students with proof of full-time status.

Registration for only Denver Botanic Gardens' program Feb. 5 is \$50 for DBG members, \$60 for nonmembers and \$38 for students with proof of full-time status.

Registration for only the *Horticulture* magazine symposium, Tuesday, Feb. 6, is \$89 for DBG members, \$99 for *Horticulture* magazine subscribers, \$109 for nonmembers and \$58 for students with proof of full-time status.

Lunch is not included in either student rate.

You may register through *Horticulture* magazine at 1-800-395-1901 or FAX 1-617-367-6364, or call DBG's education office, 370-8019 or 370-8020.

Classes promote horticulture in therapy

DBG's Horticultural Therapy Program offers an exciting new series of classes this winter and spring to promote using plants and gardening in therapy programs.

"Horticultural Therapy Through the Seasons: Planning and Planting a Program," will motivate students and help them plan for growing materials to enhance next winter's program.

The classes are intended for a variety of professionals, including occupational therapists, therapeutic recreation specialists, mental health professionals, special educators, activity therapists and people interested in a career in horticultural therapy.

Horticultural therapy is a rehabilitative practice that uses plants and plant-related programs to improve the mental and physical health of its participants. Interested students may enroll in individual classes or sign up for the entire series at a discounted rate. See the Winter-Spring *Education Programs* catalog for details or call 370-8020 for more information.

DBG digs into perennial garden renewal

Visitors to DBG in November were treated to the spectacle of a gargantuan machine in the main perennial garden scooping up the large linden trees — branch, trunk and root ball — and hoisting them to large, perfectly formed planting holes elsewhere in the gardens on York Street.

Saving existing large plant material was just the beginning of the first phase of an exciting, ambitious make-over of the garden. Excavation and construction have continued into the winter. Planting will begin in early spring. By summer Denver Botanic Gardens will be the site of one of the grandest perennial gardens in the world — and the only one devoted to “Western style” perennials and to championing, as DBG director of horticulture James E. Henrich puts it, “the potential of Rocky Mountain horticulture.”

There will be more than 700 kinds of these “plants of the future.” The garden will consist of two 210-foot borders (6,300 square feet) flanking a basket-weave patterned brick walk. Each border will taper dramatically toward the south, from 20 feet wide down to 10, forcing viewers’ sense of perspective to perceive the far end to be much more distant than it actually is. Impressive as the garden is, it will appear even more so.

Funding for the renovation was generously provided by the Martin J. and Mary Anne O’Fallon Trust, after which the garden will be named the O’Fallon Perennial Walk. The concept was created by Environmental Planning & Design in Pittsburgh. The planting design is by Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer, local gardening experts. The primary construction contractor is Colorado Hardscapes of Denver. The plants will be installed by the DBG horticulture department.

Following is an interpretation of the future garden by its designers. — Ed.

While guided by the design principles of classic herbaceous borders, the new O’Fallon Perennial Walk will have a distinct Colorado signature. It will be distinguished by a palette of plants selected for performance in our climate, by their long bloom time — from March through October — and by their sophisticated blend of color, form and texture.

Although the two borders will not be mirror images, they will complement each other. A rainbow color scheme will invite visitors on a leisurely stroll, as predominant blocks of color blend into one another. Blue flows into yellow, then orange, then purple, red and so forth.

The variety promises to please a wide range of color tastes. The blocks will bring the immense, almost overwhelming size of the borders down to an intimate scale that a gardener can use for inspiration at home. Ever-changing combinations of flowers and foliage — with an emphasis on perennials but incorporating bulbs, shrubs, annuals and tender plants — will bring visitors back, over and over throughout the seasons.

An informal tapestry hedge of mixed shrubs will provide a dramatic backdrop and a sense of enclosure. The shrubs were selected for a long period of interest with distinctive flowers, berries or foliage. Smaller shrubs, especially roses and evergreens, create strong structural elements throughout the borders. Even in winter the interplay of deciduous shrubs, some with ornamental hips or bark, and evergreens, grasses and perennials with excellent seed pods will make the borders interesting.

The O’Fallon Perennial Walk will enchant visitors of varying skill levels. Neophytes will marvel at their beauty, while experienced gardeners will find continuing inspiration. The orders will dispel any notion that gardening in Colorado is difficult. Using a broad range of plants that thrive here with a minimum effort — including many natives — guarantees a succession of beauty throughout the year. Plants that need excessive work to look good or that need excessive amounts of water will not be included.

The borders will showcase the best plants for our climate. Old favorites, such as irises, peonies and daylilies will mingle with recent introductions and improved varieties. This will demonstrate how using adaptable plants that evolved in similar climates allows gardeners to create borders of continuous bloom and interest.

The borders provide many opportunities for continuing education. We suggest members take tours and workshops to further their understanding and enjoyment of the borders. You can expand your knowledge of perennials, bulbs and woody plants and translate what you learn into results at home.

— Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer

Learn to teach others backyard composting

Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works, Solid Waste Management, has announced a training course for volunteers who will teach backyard composting to others.

Sue Cobb of Denver Recycles describes the course as a “train-the-trainer approach ... to make home composting a household practice throughout Denver and keep valuable organic materials out of area landfills. It’s a perfect way for gardening enthusiasts to learn all about composting and return something to their communities.” Participants are required to return 50 hours of community service teaching composting.

Judy Elliott, former DBG community gardens coordinator and Denver’s foremost authority on backyard composting, will teach the course; it begins in February. Call 640-1678 for details.

Friendly, fancy fish join Japanese garden

Some fancy fish called koi took up residence in the pond of Denver Botanic Gardens' Japanese garden Dec. 1.

Members of the Rocky Mountain Koi Club donated the fish to lend another authentic touch to the famous garden, which underwent a facelift this autumn.

Schools of scarlet goldfish swimming around the pond at 1005 York St. have long delighted children. But according to koi club member Ron Cameron, who engineered the release of the new fish, goldfish are properly recognized as Chinese. And although koi were derived from the same ancestors — the lowly carp — their development has taken place through centuries of selective breeding by aficionados in Japan.

An additional benefit for visitors to the garden is, Cameron says, "Koi are friendlier than goldfish. Goldfish are skittish. They tend to dart away from people. But schools of koi will readily approach the edge of the pond where their highly ornamental colors and forms can be enjoyed close up."

Koi are amazingly colorful, with scales from scarlet to white and blue to light yellow. Choice ones sparkle with a metallic sheen. They may be decked in solid colors, or in bands and speckles of different pigments. Japanese specialists have given names to the different variations that Cameron — a koi grower of some 35 years — admits American growers don't always know the meaning of.

Tending koi is an unexpectedly popular pastime along the Front Range, with more than 200 people participating in the eight-year-old local club. It can be an expensive hobby, according to Cameron: Some Denver growers own fish valued at around \$10,000 each. Cameron himself has given over his entire yard in Golden to koi, happily forsaking the pleasures of lawn for a series of landscaped ponds.

The 13 fish joining the scene at Denver Botanic Gardens were 12 to 24 inches long — large and savvy enough to escape the semi-resident black-crowned night herons and kingfishers who feed around the Japanese garden pond and other DBG waterways. The smaller fish will grow to three feet in a few years. Koi sometimes reach an age of nearly a century.

The fish were put through a routine salt treatment for possible parasites before their introduction. Individuals were photographed and measured and their type noted so members of the club can keep track of them through the years.

This coming spring additional, larger koi will be added to the pond. The Rocky Mountain Koi Club is soliciting fish donations for the DBG collection from growers and botanic gardens in St. Louis, Tucson and Southern California.

For more information on koi or the Rocky Mountain Koi Club, call president Del Pakiser, 452-7394, or member Ron Cameron, 279-2486.

Japanese garden specialist needs volunteer help

The late-fall koi addition was part of a general autumn renewal of DBG's Japanese garden. The position of Japanese garden specialist was filled in June by Bert Rhodes, an active member of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society since 1984 who has extensive training and experience in the art of shaping trees and shrubs in the Japanese style. He has a large personal collection of bonsai, some 300 to 400 years old.

Rhodes, other staff members and volunteers have installed new *tatami* mats in the authentic, Japanese-built tea house, replaced woven reed fencing around its perimeter; and installed new *rangui* posts — the small logs used as bank retainers around the pond shoreline. Water plants not considered legitimate have been weeded from the pond. This spring, plantings in the wisteria arbor will be improved, and the shingles and bamboo trim on the tea house roof will be replaced.

DBG's Japanese garden was named *Shofu-en*, or Garden of Pine Wind by its creator, renowned Santa Monica, Calif., landscape designer and artist Koichi Kawana. It was dedicated in 1979.

How about sharing DBG's renewed commitment to this excellent garden? Rhodes needs volunteers to help him weed, cultivate, dead-head and perform other tasks in the intensive maintenance Japanese style horticulture demands. The garden could thrive because of the attention you pay to its myriad details.

Most volunteers work three hours per week on Tuesday mornings. Other days and times could be arranged. Contact Bert Rhodes, 370-8039, or volunteer coordinator Joedy Arnold, 370-8049.

November employee of the month

DBG's employee of the month for November was Marsha Staughton, naturalist at Chatfield Arboretum.

Marsha was chosen for the dedication and enthusiasm she brought to this year's Pumpkin Festival, which helped make it a huge success. She was recognized, also, for her skillful coordination of the Naturalist Guide program, which has greatly increased the professionalism of visitor service and the quality of the educational experience at the Arboretum.

Marsha's love of people, plants and animals shines through in everything she does. We're proud to have her on the DBG team.

A new year for new companionship in plants

One of the surest ways to keep that New Year’s resolution to — “this year” — stick to your garden-ing dreams is to join a group of like-minded gardeners for support and inspiration. Joining a society will help keep your spirits up when they flag, increase your knowledge of the plants that strike your interest and, often, provide a source of new plants for your collection and new friends to share your hobby.

Here are the horticultural and botanical societies that meet or hold their shows at the Gardens. Call their representatives to find out more about them, when they meet and how you can fit in. Then join — and keep your dreams alive.

- African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 1: Nelly Levine, 423-6072.
- American Iris Society, Region 20: Glenna Chapman, 660-9473.
- American Rock Garden Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter: Andrew Pierce, 797-8565.
- Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society: Bob Vick, 697-0954.
- Colorado Mycological Society: Robert Monks, 399-2070.
- Colorado Native Plant Society: Jeff Dawson, 740-2793.
- Colorado Water Garden Society: Nancy Jewett, 671-7964.
- Denver Orchid Society: Jim Flor, 733-1879.
- Denver Rose Society: Bill Campbell, 832-7070.
- Gardeners of America, Denver Chapter: Tom Grace, 757-8990.
- Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers: Ingrid Little, 751-3199.
- High Country Judges Workshop: Albert Stancliff, 841-4083.
- Ikebana International, Chapter 66: Lois Krause, 467-9859.
- Mile High Daylily Society: Sabine Baur, 755-1108.
- Rocky Mountain African Violet Council: Cathy Balliu, 469-4574.
- Rocky Mountain Koi Club: Del Pakiser, 452-7394.
- Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society: Alan Hills, 423-3783.
- Ultra Violet Club: Robert Johnson, 424-3887.

Kelaidis to head DBG plant evaluation

Panayoti Kelaidis, who as its curator has ele-vated Denver Botanic Gardens’ Rock Alpine Garden to the most admired in North America, has been named DBG plant evaluation coordina-tor. He will oversee DBG’s Plant Select Program and coordinate horticultural trials and evaluations, the index seminum seed exchange, production of members’ dividend plants and DBG’s plant exploration. He also will be responsible for dis-seminating to the public information about Rocky Mountain horticulture at DBG.

Kelaidis, who long has had an interest and involvement in these plant acquisition, evaluation and introduction activities, will retain his rock garden curatorial duties.

IRS issues important numbers for members

The Internal Revenue Service has issued expanded substantiation requirements for the kinds of items which should be included in deter-mining the fair market value of a membership. We have reworked our figures accordingly. For membership payments made on or after Jan. 1, 1994, you may use the following:

Membership	Fair Market Value	Deductible
Gardener (\$25)	\$ 8	\$ 17
Landscaper (\$35)	8	27
Arbor Circle (\$50)	8	42
Botanist Club (\$120)	48	72
Conservator’s Society (\$240)	88	152
Perennial Partners (\$500)	162	338
Four Seasons (\$1000)	278	722
Four Seasons (\$2,500)	328	2,172
Four Seasons (\$5,000)	828	4,172
Corporate Members:		
\$250	28	222
\$500	48	452
\$1,000	238	762
\$2,500	738	1,762
\$5,000	1,638	3,362

In memory of Jean Bradford

Ms. Betty Ambler
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Grace and Alfred Bridgeland

Ms. Ruth Alford

In memory of Judge John Brooks

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of John C. Eaton

Ms. Valerie Ruth McMichael
Bin, Michele and Cameron Woo

In memory of Fletcher Gaylord

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates

In memory of Doris Guinn

Ms. Susan Twomey

In memory of Essie Hansen

Bromwell Elementary School

In memory of Jane McCotter

Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Emery

In memory of Julia Olson

Mr. Chris Conroy

In memory of Lucille Roberts

Ms. Margot Brauns
Mr. R.I. Brown Jr.
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Ms. Sally Holloway
Jefferson Apartment Homes, Inc.
Gene and Beverly Kramer
Ms. Adele Ray Lewis
Ms. Pauline Maccoy
Ms. Virginia Roe Miller
Ms. Dolores Muntz
Mr. Steven R. Warden

In memory of Sharon Robertson

Ms. Marilyn A. Nelson

In memory of Dorothy Russell

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kosanke

In memory of Mary Anne Sonnenberg

Mr. C.W. Robinson Jr.

In memory of Gladys Sunderland Mr. Eugene H. Adams

Mr. Charles Boettcher II
Ms. Ruth H. Brown
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Paul and Lisa Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates
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Mr. Richard Sayford
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Jodi and John Tassos
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Mr. and Mrs. William Vance
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Appel

In memory of Lucius E. Woods

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Mr. C.W. Robinson Jr.
Ms. Debbie Stafford
Wade, Ash, Woods, Hill & Farley, P.C.
Ms. Debbie Wagner
Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Wayne
Rex and Nancy Whitlatch

In memory of Dr. Eugene Klenk

Dr. and Mrs. Joel A. Berenbeim

In memory of Douglas Goebel

Ms. Betty P. Broadhurst

In memory of Dorothy McDonald

The Cox Family
The Sexton Family

In honor of the recovery of Chuck and Faye Schayer

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Appel

In honor of Alice Barse Houston McWhinney's 100th Birthday

Ms. Betty P. Broadhurst

In honor of Bill and Emily Kilpatrick's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ms. Betty P. Broadhurst

Birthdays...anniversaries...memorials...you may make a contribution to the Gardens in honor or in memory of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to your institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

From your membership office

DBG goes to Ireland, Vail, Philly in '96

Plan a trip this year with other DBG members. Here are the excursions planned for 1996:

- Ireland in Spring: May 12-21
- Vail Wildflower Weekend: July 13-15
- Philadelphia/Brandywine: mid-September

Call Tammy Gates at 370-8064 for information, and sign up for the fun.

Sign up a friend at garden and home show

The Colorado Garden and Home Show returning to the Denver Convention Center Feb. 4 to 11 will provide a great mid-winter treat, with thousands of spring bulbs and flowering plants on display. Be sure to drop by the Denver Botanic Gardens booth to say hello. And bring a friend, someone who is not yet familiar with the Gardens. You will receive a little treat just for coming by.

Here's a family valentine for members

Cupid is hovering just around the corner! Make your Valentine's Day more special by making it a family day. Bring your children to the Gardens on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Eric West, accompanied by an array of instruments, will present musical stories in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Following the stories, you can make your own fancy valentines. Special refreshments will be served.

Cost is \$2 per person; children 2 and younger are free. Call 370-8018 by Thursday, Feb. 8, to make your reservation. Look for your special invitation in the mail and don't miss the fun!

Behind-the-scenes adventure awaits new members

New members are invited to a light lunch in Mitchell Hall Sunday, Jan. 21, then to a fascinating exploration of the production greenhouse areas. The tours will be led by the Denver Botanic Garden greenhouse staff and volunteers.

Reservations are required — and limited. Please call 370-8018 by Jan. 15 to reserve your space.

Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.
 909 York Street
 Denver, Colorado 80206-3799
 Address correction requested
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January

January						
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February						
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Coming Up: Classes are in italics. An * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. For **course information** refer to DBG's fall *Education Programs* or 303-370-8020. For **current DBG events information:** 303-370-8187. For current plant and arts **society meeting information:** 303-370-8097.

January

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| <p>1 "Blossoms of Light" final evening:
Dickens Carolers</p> <p>5 Free day at Chatfield Arboretum</p> <p>6 Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour</p> <p>9 Conservatory Tour Guides meeting
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting</p> <p>10 DBG Guild meeting</p> <p>13 * <i>From Seeds to Fruits</i>
<i>Identifying Colorado Conifers</i>
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour</p> <p>15 * <i>Basic Landscape Design</i></p> <p>16 * <i>Conifers for Colorado Gardens</i>
<i>*Acrylics for the Botanical Illustrator</i></p> <p>17 * <i>Landscape Design Workshop</i>
<i>* Horticultural Therapy Through the Seasons</i>
<i>Green Up the Winter Blues with Horticultural Therapy Activities</i>
<i>Plants of Prehistoric Journey</i>
Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour for
New Members
American Rock Garden Society meeting</p> <p>18 * <i>Beginning Bonsai</i>
<i>* Creating a Regionally Evocative Garden</i></p> <p>20 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council meeting
High Country Judges workshop
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour</p> | <p>21 New Members Party
<i>Aromatherapy</i>
Mile High Daylily Society meeting</p> <p>22 Ultra Violet Club meeting</p> <p>23 <i>Sun Dogs, Weather and Gardening</i>
<i>* Hawks and Owls: Colorado's Soaring Beauties</i></p> <p>24 <i>Plants of Prehistoric Journey</i>
<i>Winter Swag</i>
Colorado Native Plant Society meeting</p> <p>25 African Violet Society of Denver meeting
Ikebana International meeting</p> <p>27 <i>Seed & Nursery Catalog Blowout</i>
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour</p> <p>28 <i>Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour I</i>
<i>Hearty Italian Soups</i></p> <p>30 * <i>Beginning Botanical Watercolors I, II & III</i></p> <p>31 <i>Herbs for a Healthy Winter Season</i></p> |
|---|--|

February

- 2 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 3-11 Colorado Garden & Home Show
- 3 *Understanding Front Range Soils I*
** Beginning Beekeeping*
Sweet Annie Wreath
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour
- 5, 6 *Intimate Gardens Symposium*
- 7 *You Can Grow Plants Indoors Without a Greenhouse*

Deadline for entries Feb.16

Waxman U. teaches close-ups for photo contest

Photographers interested in entering DBG's "Picture a Great Garden" photo contest can take advantage of a class by a pro from Robert Waxman University. Saturday, Jan. 20, an instructor from the university will be at DBG to provide participants some tips to improve their close-up photography skills.

Sign up for the free instruction by calling 370-8018. The class is from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Seating is limited. If you bring your camera you'll have the opportunity to practice after the class in DBG's tropical Boettcher Memorial Conservatory.

Deadline for entries in the contest is Feb. 16. If you have been focusing on the beautiful scenes at Denver Botanic Gardens, Chatfield Arboretum, Walter S. Reed Botanical Garden or Mount Goliath, it's time to get your photographs entered. If not, there's still a little time for an award-winning winter shot.

In the adult division, the winner will receive a PZ 70 28-80 Zoom camera with a value of more than \$950 from Pentax. The youth division winner will receive a Pentax IQZoom EZ Y camera worth more than \$200.

Second prize in each division will be a year's photo developing at Robert Waxman Camera and Video. Kodak will provide a year's supply of Royal Gold film to the third-prize winner in each division. Fourth prize is a one-year DBG family membership. A people's choice award, determined March 22 to 24 by visitors who view a display of outstanding entries at DBG, is a copy of wildlife photographer John Fielder's latest book, *Rocky Mountain National Park: A 100-Year Perspective*.

You can pick up a brochure with rules and entry form in DBG's Lobby Court, 1005 York St., or call 370-8018.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

February 1996



Stimulating lectures for '96 Bonfils-Stanton Series



Des Kennedy leads off the five-part Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series with "Move over Monet," a witty look at eccentricities of gardening.

The 1996 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series begins in February, to bring to DBG audiences five of the nation's most stimulating speakers on the diverse world of gardening.

Sign up for the series and you will attend expert discussions of perennial gardening nuances worldwide, environmentally sensitive design and unusual plants that will nourish your horticultural creativity into the 21st century. The reputation of DBG's Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series rests on the singular insight each speaker shares from his or her experience and on the wisdom and wit of passionate obsessions. The only series of its kind in this part of the country, it has been generously supported by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation since 1987.

The series begins Wednesday, Feb. 28, with "Move Over Monet," by Des Kennedy. This entertaining and humorous speaker explores the foibles of gardeners as artists and eccentrics — "naturalistic" gardeners in particular — as they wrestle with the fixation that is gardening. Painterly gardeners, disgruntled husbands, garden snobs and other characters wander through Kennedy's narrative, illustrating why renowned garden writer Anne Lovejoy dubbed Kennedy "a horticultural Robin Williams." You'll see the remarkable West Coast garden that he has developed over 20 years on a wooded, rocky acreage on Denman Island in British Columbia's Georgia Strait and visit other gardens that feature

(Continued on page 9: "Stimulating lectures...")

DBG names Kirk life trustee; elects '96 officers & members

The Denver Botanic Gardens Board of Trustees named past president Mr. Richard A. Kirk a life member of the board at its November meeting. Also, the board elected its 1996 officers and executive committee members, and approved the list of board members for the year.

Kirk is chairman of the Leadership Campaign, the drive to raise funds to implement the first phase of the long-range capital improvement plan approved by the board in 1993. He has served on the board since 1968. He was president from 1980 to 1983.

Elected president for 1996 was Mr. Donald J. Kany. President-elect is Mr. John B. Proffitt.

Other officers and executive committee members for the year are Mr. Charles W. Cleworth, vice-president; Mrs. Joseph S. Davis, vice-president; Mrs. Walter C. Emery, vice president; Mrs. John D. Woods, secretary; Mr. D. Deane Hall, Jr., assistant secretary; Mr. Donald K. Dodge, treasurer; Mrs. Barbara G. Maes, assistant treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin and Mrs. Charles C. Gates.

(Continued on page 3: "DBG names Kirk...")

Inside this GTN:

DBG's popular BirdHaus Bash is set to fly again in 1996.

— page 3

Is this the year you join the fun by leading tours for the Gardens?

— page 4

\$6.9 million is in hand, and your help can send the Leadership Campaign over the top.

— page 10

FOLEY'S

Foley's a corporate friend of the Gardens

In 1995 Foley's, a full line department store operating 9 locations in Colorado, provided corporate sponsorship support for "Flowers & Art," a cooperative program by DBG and the Denver Art Museum, and for DBG's "Blossoms of Light."

Foley's has a long standing commitment to the Denver and Colorado communities, supporting worthwhile endeavors from Ronald McDonald House-Denver to the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. We thank Foley's for their support and for being such a good corporate friend of the Gardens.

From the executive director

Denver Botanic Gardens fills many roles in the community, but none is more important — and none is as hidden from the public eye — as its study and protection of plants and fungi. We highlight some of this research in this issue of *Green Thumb News* so you can understand this wonderful component of the Gardens.

You can see glimpses of it as you stroll the grounds or attend special events. The Endangered Species Garden, one of the few such gardens in the world, displays some of the rarest plants we work with. This is part of our rare plant conservation research, coordinated with the Center for Plant Conservation, a consortium of 25 botanic gardens around the country engaged in similar work. Our studies concentrate on the Rocky Mountain region and are led by Manager of Research Carol Dawson and Research Assistant Mark Minton. More than two dozen plants are under investigation. Extensive research is being conducted on several, not only to learn more about these particular plants, but about all rare plants. This will lead to specific programs for conservation based on the best conservation biology information.

DBG's Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium is now the major herbarium in Denver, and the only one used for research. It is comprised of about 30,000 dried plant specimens for scientific study. From these specimens botanists can study plant evolution, plant structure and plant geography and have a permanent example of the plant for future reference. Under the direction of Herbarium Manager Dr. Janet Wingate we have a host of volunteers, many of them retired botanists, working on these investigations.

If you have visited the annual mushroom fair at the Gardens you have glimpsed another area of DBG's work, the study of mushrooms. Along with members of the Colorado Mycological Society, Associate Curator Vera Evenson investigates fungi of the Rocky Mountains. These poorly studied, important organisms are vital to the functioning of natural ecosystems.

And on the grounds at 1005 York St. you may notice a number of unusual plants you cannot locate at your local garden center. Some of these grow in formal test plots such as in the All-America Rose Selection test garden and the iris and daylily gardens. In other gardens, especially the Rock Alpine Garden and the new Water-Smart Garden, we are continually testing plants for their ability to live and thrive in Denver. Panayoti Kelaidis, curator of the Rock Alpine Garden, now is the coordinator of this testing and evaluation. One component of this program is a cooperative effort with Colorado State University called Plant Select, to seek out and test plants native to climates similar to the western United States to determine their horticultural merit. Our plant recorder, Ken Slump, and our horticulturist at Chatfield Arboretum, Chris Hartung, have worked on this for several years.

Altogether, we have a fine research program. It is often invisible but it is vital to DBG and to its lasting contribution to science, horticulture and conservation. Please read more about it on pages 5 through 8 of this special issue of *Green Thumb News*.

—Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Feb. SCFD free days

Continuing funds from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District will make possible free days at DBG's Chatfield Arboretum and Denver Art Museum in February:

- Chatfield Arboretum, Friday, Feb. 2
- Denver Art Museum, every Saturday

Green Thumb News February 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033
Deadline for April issue: Feb. 16

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Jewish ecology day celebrated at DBG

The Jewish Community Center and Denver Botanic Gardens will cosponsor a celebration for *Tu B'Shvat*, the Jewish New Year of Trees, at the Gardens Feb. 4. The holiday is a reminder that human beings have an ongoing responsibility to care for the earth; the holiday's primary symbol is the tree.

The evening will include observations by Rabbi Ya'akov Chaitovsky, Cantor Galit Pinsky Gottlieb and storyteller Cherie Karo-Schwartz; a light kosher dinner based on foods from plants; and a stroll through DBG's tropical conservatory, Japanese Garden and Rock Alpine Garden to appreciate trees and other plants in their winter forms.

The family program begins at 5:30 p.m. Register with Tammy Dollin, 399-2660 ext. 118.



Richard A. Kirk, new life trustee

Standing for re-election to the board and approved were Mrs. Charles C. Gates, Mr. Newell M. Grant, Mr. Donald J. Kany, Mr. John B. Proffitt, Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin and Mr. Ben D. Trevor.

The trustees approved eight new members for the board: Mrs. George Cannon, a Lakewood resident who also has served on the boards of The Park People (Denver Parks and Recreation Foundation) and Pine Manor College; Mrs. Phill Greenblatt of Cherry Hills;

Mr. Bruce D. Alexander, former Denver Botanic Gardens executive director, manager of Denver Parks and Recreation and board member of Denver Zoo Foundation, Spring Institute, Colorado Endowment for the Humanities, Institute for International Education and Denver Council Foreign Relations Committee;

Mr. John Moye of Denver, a board member of the Colorado Historical Foundation and Stapleton Development Corporation; Mrs. Jeffrey Schutz of Denver, who served as the DBG Plant and Book Sale chairman in 1994; and Mr. Roy Whitehead of Cherry Hills Village, who has been on the boards of Denver Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, Colorado Bankers Association, Denver Metro Chamber and Downtown Denver Inc.

1996 trustees appointed by Mayor Wellington Webb are Mr. Douglas Bevis, chief financial officer of CH2M Hill, Inc., a consulting engineering firm, and Mrs. Kyla Thompson, CEO of the Western regional office of the Jefferson Group, a national public affairs and governmental relations company. Both live in Morgan Historic District, just south of the Gardens.

Mayoral appointees continuing on the board include Mrs. Maes and Dr. Bernard F. Gipson, Dr. Charlotte Redden, and Mr. Walter D. Lowry.

'BirdHaus Bash' to fly again in 1996

DBG's first BirdHaus Bash last year proved to be so much fun for so many people that a 1996 version has been scheduled, with a birdhouse and bird feeder contest, an exhibit at the Gardens and a fun preview party.

Deadline for registering to enter a structure is May 20. The fabricated birdhouse or bird feeder entries are due June 20, then all will be displayed at the Gardens June 28 through July 14 after a gala "Birdhaus Bash" preview party and auction the evening of June 27.

The structure judged most outstanding — based on originality, craftsmanship, functionality, humor and whimsy — will earn its designer a \$1,000 monetary award and media promotion. Other awards will be given in two categories: adult and 10-and-younger. Judges will be recruited from the fields of architecture, design, art and ornithology.

The competition is open to everyone. The BirdHaus Bash committee encourages architects, landscape architects, designers, carpenters, artists, ornithologists, students, children — everyone — to apply their creativity to the contest.

For information and entry forms call Nancy Wardell at the Gardens, 303-370-8055.



Requirements

Birdhouses and bird feeders must be able to do one of the following: hang from a tree branch, be mounted to an outdoor pedestal, be placed on an indoor pedestal or table, or stand unsupported. They can be of any material.

Schedule

May 20, 5 p.m. — registration deadline
June 20, 4 p.m. — submission deadline
June 27, 5:30 p.m. — BirdHaus Bash & auction
June 28 to July 14 — public display of entries

DBG joins year-long family push for science



Beginning in March DBG will join five other Front Range educational and cultural organizations in a year-long program to celebrate science in our lives. It's part of the National Science & Tech-

nology Week (NSTW) program "Designs in Science." The program will engage people at different sites in hands-on activities. DBG will participate with a booth at each of the other organizations and host its own event with the Fall Gardening Fair Saturday, Sept. 7.

"Designs in Science" begins Saturday, March 9, with Super Science Days — with activities for all ages — at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. Mark your calendars with these other locations and dates: Denver Museum of Natural History, April 20; Denver Zoo, July 13; and Collage Children's Museum (Boulder), Dec. 26 to 30. All activities are included in the regular admission to each site.

Additional aspects of the NSTW collaboration are teacher training sessions on Wednesday, July 24, or Thursday, Aug. 1, and Family Science Days in the spring and fall.

The program is partially funded by the National Science Foundation. For more information about "Designs in Science" please contact DBG's youth education specialist Geri Warfield, 370-8043.

Federation hosts talk on threatened fens

Colorado's high-altitude mountain wetlands, fens and carrs are being destroyed at an increasing rate by mining operations scooping out their layers of peat for sale as a horticultural soil amendment.

For years Denver Botanic Gardens gardening experts have discouraged the use of peat for this purpose. Simply put, our native mountain peats have high levels of salts detrimental to plant growth and they contain few nutrients. Compost, commercial or homemade, and other renewable amendments are safer and more beneficial.

More importantly, all peats are the result of tens of thousands of years of plant growth. Because of their location, the fens and carrs that produce them are fragile but important systems.

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs will sponsor renowned wetland scientist Dr. David Cooper and a panel of experts in a free evening symposium at Denver Botanic Gardens Tuesday, Feb. 27, to discuss the values and functions of these threatened systems. Call Stella Marker, 366-6104, for information on attending this important session.

Share the splendor of the seasons at DBG

You can share the year-round beauty of the Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum with visitors of all ages as a volunteer guide. From nesting Swainson's hawks and budding lilacs to snow-covered grass stems and Japanese garden pines, knowledgeable interpretation by our guides brings to life the seasons of DBG.

Feb. 27 is the first session of training for Outdoor Tour Guides and Chatfield Arboretum Naturalist Guides. The classes will teach guiding techniques and specific site information to help volunteers confidently lead visitors. Materials fee for the Outdoor Tour Guide course is \$15; for the Naturalist Guide course it is \$25. For more information or to register, please contact the education office, 370-8020. Courses for Preschooler Tour Guides and Sensory Garden Guides will begin in May.

You may learn more about guiding in general by attending the open house for tour guides March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon in Mitchell Hall. Experienced guides will answer your questions and explain the five guiding programs at DBG. Refreshments will be served. Although the event is free, pre-registration is required. Call 370-8020, bring a friend and discover the fun and excitement of DBG's volunteer corps.

Sign-up soon for March water-smart gardening workshops

Members are encouraged to make reservations now for the few spaces left March 8 or 9 in DBG's full-day workshops on "Designing the Water-Smart Garden." The workshops, jointly presented by the Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Water Department, are conducted by regional experts with long experience in environmentally friendly horticulture.

If you want to stop wasting water, time and money on plants that have a slim chance of survival in our region, grow plants that will thrive. They'll be discussed in these workshops.

The plants recommended are featured in the new book *Xeriscape Plant Guide* by Denver Water and American Waterworks Association, and all of the speakers were involved in producing the book. Many of its illustrations, by students in Denver Botanic Gardens' School of Botanical Illustration, will be on display during the workshops.

The cost for the program either Friday or Saturday is \$50 for members, \$60 for nonmembers and \$38 for students with proof of full-time status. Please call 370-8020 to register.

RESEARCH AT THE GARDENS

Over the High Plains, Rocky Mountains and mesas of Colorado grows a rich and varied flora.

But to the botanists who scouted the West ahead of 19th century European civilization it seemed a sparse flora, quite different from that they had known. Here, unlike on the Continent or the Eastern Seaboard, the plant species had been defined by thin, often alkaline soils and a climate of brilliant year-round sunshine and sporadic precipitation.

From the beginning it was clear that most of the plants and seeds carried in by the settlers would face environmental obstacles.

Men and women of curiosity and determination set out to define a new botany and horticulture for this land and its climate. By 1900 civic leaders were convinced that a botanic garden was needed to explore the native plants and to evaluate the exotic ones. Denver Botanic Gardens, chartered in 1951, is the outgrowth of several tentative organizations dedicated to this purpose.

DBG's mission has included botanical and horticultural research from the first. In this issue of the Green Thumb News we pass along a glimpse at some of its current contributions. The additional printing costs are underwritten in part by funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

— Carol Dawson, Manager of Research

Denver Botanic Gardens is one of the original 18 botanic gardens and arboreta that formed the Center for Plant Conservation in 1987. The consortium of institutions joined to coordinate a nationwide *ex situ* plant conservation program. The concept was simple: With help from public and private conservation groups, botanic gardens would build a living "national collection" of endangered plants — to preserve them outside their threatened native habitats. Today there are 25 institutions participating in this program.



Osterhout's milkvetch

Denver Botanic Gardens still participates in *ex situ* conservation. For each rare plant in our program DBG botanists collect seed for long-term storage at the National Seed Storage Laboratory in Ft. Collins and conduct research to develop germination protocols.

However, our emphasis in recent years has shifted to *in situ* research. Most of their time now is spent in the field conducting analyses of rare plant

populations. The approach is two-fold: first, to determine the current status of the population, including its critical life history stages, and, second, to combine this information with scientific management of the habitat.

DBG's rare plant research is staffed by two botanists. Each summer they are joined for 10 weeks by a research intern. Several volunteers help with our field program also. Also DBG benefits from several cooperative research programs with The Nature Conservancy, the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service.

A good example of such cooperative research is the long-term study of an endangered milkvetch in Grand County with The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management.

Astragalus osterhoutii Jones (Osterhout's milkvetch) is a listed endangered species. Two key areas that have been identified for investigation are the demographics and ecology of the species.

This milkvetch is endemic to Middle Park, a high sagebrush basin. The species occurs as scattered colonies within a 24-square-kilometer range, from 5 km east of Troublesome Creek to 13 km north of Kremmling. One of the largest colonies is found at Muddy Creek, the construction site for the Wolford Mountain dam and reservoir project.

Denver Botanic Gardens botanists have been working with The Nature Conservancy since 1992 tabulating individuals from the population in all life history stages. We are particularly interested in seedling recruitment rates, mortality rates, percent of the population that produces fruit, and the number of seeds produced by individuals within a given year. At the conclusion of this monitoring, the data will be used to construct a matrix population model to predict the population's growth dynamics. Our long-term goal is to develop a plan for the Bureau of Land Management to use to manage the survival of the species.

We are interested also in the factors that affect milkvetch seedling establishment. If the milkvetch appears early in the biotic progression of the area, it

would prefer disturbed habitats. In 1994 a habitat manipulation study was set up. Twenty 10 x 10 meter plots were marked out at Muddy Creek in an area where no milkvetch plants are growing. The objective is to determine the effects of soil surface disturbance and the presence or absence of sagebrush on the survival and growth of milkvetch seedlings.

Volunteers from DBG, The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management spent many hours clearing sagebrush and turning over the soil in selected plots. Seeds and seedlings grown at Denver Botanic Gardens were planted in the prepared plots in the spring and fall of 1995.



Research assistant Mark Minton and intern Tom Grant at milkvetch research site near Kremmling

EVALUATION PROGRAM PROMOTES NEW PLANTS FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORTICULTURE

Since its inception Denver Botanic Gardens has sought plants native to the West and similar “steppe” climates of potential value to regional homeowners. Several thousand kinds a year have been planted on the grounds at 1005 York St. and at Chatfield Arboretum. Over the past decade DBG and Colorado State University, along with nurserymen, landscape architects and growers, have been evaluating these plants in a program called “Plant Select” coordinated by the university and the Gardens. They have determined that there are many plants of merit that are rarely seen in commerce. Often a deserving native plant with horticultural potential languishes unnoticed while a better known exotic that performs poorly here is imported for sale year after year — out of a kind of inertia.

Amateur gardeners, too, are aware that a very small portion of our rich native plant heritage is available in the nursery trade. Most of the plants we grow in our gardens are — like us gardeners — transplants from other, usually wetter climates.

To champion new, worthier plants, the Plant Select committee has devised an evaluation and marketing program, and currently under observation are more than 50 little known or novel plants. The first five plants selected for marketing in the program will be introduced in 1997:

Allegheny viburnum (*Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* ‘Allegheny’), originally bred at the National Arboretum in Washington, D. C., has proven to be a versatile and very durable shrub for Western gardens.

Silver sage (*Salvia argentea*) was championed by DBG’s first professional director Dr. A.C. Hildreth; he would be delighted to find this sumptuous foliage plant finally achieving recognition.

Carol Mackie daphne is a branch sport of *Daphne x burkwoodii* that occurred a quarter century ago in New Jersey; it has proven to grow particularly well in this region and deserves much wider exposure to home gardeners here.



Sandy Snyder, rock garden assistant, and plant evaluation coordinator Panayoti Kelaidis in DBG’s Rock Alpine Garden, an important proving grounds for “new” plants

Two plants have been introduced to general commerce already, through DBG’s annual Plant and Book Sale:

Turkish veronica, *Veronica liwanensis* was first made known to Westerners by the MacPhail and Watson expedition to Turkey in 1977. We planted it widely at DBG as a ground cover in the early 1980s, and it has proven to be a particularly vigorous, compact, showy ground cover for sunny gardens — even needing no supplemental irrigation.

Agastache rupestris was originally collected in the high mountains of New Mexico by Sally Walker of Tucson. It is an outstanding late season perennial — like an intensely aromatic Indian paintbrush — very easily grown in our region.

— Panayoti Kelaidis,
Plant Evaluation Coordinator



During the 1960s, before the present landscaping and waterways were constructed, DBG’s summer grounds were a sea of perennials, shrubs and annuals (here, petunias) being evaluated by then director A. C. Hildreth for their adaptability to conditions in the Front Range.



Recent trial beds of new annual flower hybrids, under evaluation at the Gardens

HERBARIUM IS TOOL FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION



DBG Herbarium staff were responsible for identifying 150 plant species new to Rocky Mountain National Park. (l. to r.: Jan Wingate, Mary Edwards and Thelma Richards)

The Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium originated in 1943 as a project of the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association. It is a collection of dried, pressed plant specimens mounted on large cards and arranged in library stacks — a botanical library, a permanent record of plant diversity.

In 1960 the facility became the official herbarium of Denver Botanic Gardens and in 1971 it acquired and incorporated the herbarium of the University of Denver. The collection now numbers more than 30,000 specimens. Included are special collections such as the J.J. Waring allergy plant collection, the John B. Hartwell collection and the E.H. Brunquist Mount Goliath Collection.

From 1987 to 1992 herbarium staff members led by Jan Wingate, Velma Richards and Mary Edwards conducted a floristic survey of Rocky Mountain National Park that added 150 species to the list of plants known to live in the park.

Goals of the herbarium staff are to improve the collection as a research tool, to continue to study the biodiversity in Colorado through plant surveys and inventories, to expand its collections of Colorado native and cultivated species and to educate the public through public service and publications.

The herbarium is used by anyone who has a need to identify plants — gardeners with weed problems, ranchers with poisonous or pest plants on the range, foresters and agriculturists dealing with unknown plants, pharmacists, ecologists, geologists, professional and amateur botanists, anthropologists, archeologists — anyone, in other words, asking the questions, “What is this plant? Where does it grow? How does it behave?”

The herbarium is open to the public Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by appointment.

NATIVE PLANTS AND MAINTENANCE IN ‘NATURAL’ GARDENS

Denver Botanic Gardens has several “natural” gardens — re-creations of Colorado plant communities. They serve not only to teach visitors about different ecological areas of the state but to provide a testing ground for introducing plants to domestic landscapes and for developing horticultural maintenance practices for such areas.

One of these is the Laura Porter Smith Plains Garden. There, for several years, we have been observing the effects of the timing of controlled fires. By burning the dry plants at different times from fall to spring, we can observe the results in controlling weeds and in encouraging the germination and growth of the different species in the garden. In essence, we set miniature prairie fires at different times each year, then note their different effects on weeds and on the production of desirable seedlings.

Also in connection with this garden, we spend several weeks each year studying different plains areas in the state and collecting seed to enhance our York Street display. This year we added 18 different flowering plant species, one lichen and one puffball mushroom from our field work.

We have also obtained new suitable plants for the Gates Garden and Xeriscape Demonstration Garden from our field collections. Besides the customary wildflowers — always nice additions — we have introduced into these gardens appropriate mosses and lichens. In the Gates Garden we spread a “moss milkshake” concoction on rocks and soil, and transplanted plugs of cryptogammic crust in the Xeriscape garden.

Around the pond area between the Gates and plains gardens we inoculated the soil with a mycorrhizal product to help the species become established and are evaluating the effects of this product.

—Kathy Kircher, Horticultural Supervisor



Once a year, at different times, DBG sets controlled fires in the plains garden to observe their effects on weed control and seedling emergence.

DBG MYCOLOGY HERBARIUM STUDIES

MUSHROOMS, PRAIRIES TO TUNDRA

Research efforts of the Denver Botanic Gardens mycology staff are centered on surveying Colorado habitats from the prairie to the tundra for their mycological flora. Colorado's amazingly varied habitats support a wealth of common to rare mushrooms and other fungi. Some are recently new to science.

Among the projects are comparison of the mushroom ecosystems in old growth forests and new forests and studying those mushrooms that form symbiotic relationships with plants, especially trees. These are mycorrhizae ("fungus-root"). The fungus partner and the plant rootlets form a mutually beneficial underground "marriage" which allows the two types of organisms to exchange nutrients. We're finding that without their fungal partners, many plants and most trees will not grow.

The home of DBG's mycological research program is the Herbarium of Fungi in the lower level of the Boettcher Education Center. Founded in the early 1960s by Dr. D. H. "Sam" Mitchel, it houses over 18,000 dried mushroom specimens which have been collected from the wild, documented, photographed and preserved. This invaluable collection represents a cross section of edible, non-edible, and poisonous mushrooms of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.

The herbarium, managed by DBG mycologist Vera Evenson, is an educational resource for people curious about the natural history of the area, for "pothunters" who enjoy eating wild mushrooms, for the Rocky Mountain Poison Center which advises hapless pothunters, for emergency room doctors who encounter the results of poisonous mushrooms and for botanical researchers who uses the specimens in their comparative biodiversity studies.

Like the canary in the mine, mushrooms in our Rocky Mountain forests are indicators of the health of ecosystems. Decades of collecting by DBG mycologists have amassed a wealth of information which is available to foresters and scientists for comparative ecological and biodiversity studies.

—Vera Evenson,
Assistant Curator of Mycology



Students and interns of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies and Vera Evenson, DBG assistant curator of mycology (center), admire a "find" of giant western puffballs, *Calvatia booniana*. Staff and volunteers of the DBG Herbarium of Fungi have been conducting studies of Pitkin County since the 1970s.



Boletus edulis, a common edible mushroom



(right) *Hebeloma* species, an important group of mushroom that are the subject of important ongoing research by Vera Evenson.

FOR ENJOYMENT AND KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS — DBG LIBRARY

DBG's Helen Fowler Library is primarily known to the public as an information resource for the hobby gardener, but throughout its history it has supported the research of many constituencies.

Our collection of floras — botanical books enumerating and describing the plants that grow in a particular area — is extensive. Because large areas of those countries have climatic conditions similar to our own, the floras of the former U.S.S.R., Iran, Iraq and China are very useful to our staff when seeking information on plants to introduce to local horticulture. The floras are often a good source for horticultural information when no other resource can be found: By reading about the plant's natural history, especially its habitat, a horticulturist can conjecture the growing conditions which will best suit it.

Researchers across the United States access our magazine collection through interlibrary loan. DBG's collection of scientific journals and plant society magazines are often used by graduate students. The Bureau of Land Management considers us a prime source for much of their staff's botanical research.

When the Water Resources Department of Colorado Springs was developing guidelines for landscape and site improvements, it used the library's collections on xeriscaping, landscape architecture and garden design. Local garden columnists scour the library's resources in preparation for their books and articles.

Schoolchildren in the metropolitan Denver area consider the library a one-stop place for information for their botanical science projects.

—Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian

Stimulating lectures...

(Continued from page 1)

creativity in naturalistic settings by gardeners working within their particular biogeoclimatic zones.

Kennedy is a freelance writer for magazines such as *Harrowsmith*, *Fine Gardening* and *Canadian Geographic*, and his books include *Crazy About Gardening: Reflections on the Sweet Seductions of a Garden*, *Nature's Outcasts: A New Look at Living Things We Love to Hate* and *The Garden Club*. He hosts a Canadian television program on gardening and appears regularly on regional and national television and radio programs. He is a regular columnist on the national CBC television program "Midday." Kennedy writes a regular gardening column for *The Globe and Mail* of Toronto.

Horticulture magazine states, "It is a rare delight to discover a compelling new voice in garden writing and Kennedy's is a fascinating one." Colorado's Lauren Springer says his talk is one of the most humorous she has heard.

The series continues Wednesday, March 27, with a look at perennial plants, their uses and interesting combinations in European and American gardens, in "The Perennial Presence" by Steven Still. Still is professor of horticulture at Ohio State University, author, photographer and executive director of the Perennial Plant Association. He'll show you beautiful public and private gardens where perennials are featured in double borders, rock gardens and water gardens, from corporate landscapes to small personal yards.

"The Collector's Garden" by Ken Druse on Wednesday, April 24, will be a journey to revolutionary gardens to introduce some of the plants that will inhabit your gardens and the people who will shape the direction of our favorite pastime in the future. A prolific and well-respected writer, Druse's books include *The Natural Garden*, *The Natural Shade Garden* and *The Collector's Garden*.

In September the series continues with "Passalong Plants" by Steve Bender, senior writer for *Southern Living* magazine and a contributor to several books. It concludes in October with "Environmental Gardening and Design" presented by Holly Shimizu, chief horticulturist and assistant executive director for the United States Botanic Garden on the Mall in Washington, D.C. She is also a frequent host on the PBS "Victory Garden" television program.

To register for the 1996 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series call 370-8020 or 370-8019. The discounted price for members for all five lectures is \$35. Nonmembers are welcome at \$45. Members may attend individual lectures for \$8; tickets for nonmembers are \$12 per lecture.

Presentations are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. DBG's library will be open the evenings of the lectures, and the DBG Gift Shop carries books for signing by the speakers.

'Intimate Gardens' symposiums Feb. 5 & 6

Two days of expert discussion of smaller gardens will be presented by *Horticulture* magazine and Denver Botanic Gardens this month. These symposiums have been planned for amateur gardeners, landscape designers, nursery and garden center operators, and others who wish to learn more about gardening in small spaces.

"Intimate Gardens," Monday, Feb. 5, and Tuesday, Feb. 6, brings together some of today's foremost designers and horticulturists to share their experience in creating memorable small landscapes and their insight into the practical realities of maintenance.

Feb. 6 *Horticulture* magazine presents a one-day symposium of nationally known experts: designer James David, garden writer Helen Dillon, floral designer Thomas Hobbs and plantsman Daniel J. Hinkley.

Feb. 5 the Gardens offers its complementary program, "Creating Intimacy — What Works in Denver." It will feature local experts Rob Proctor, Eleanor Welshon, Diane Ipsen and Panayoti Kelaidis to give you guidance in creating pleasurable small landscapes.

You may attend one or both symposiums. Get information on fees and registration by calling 370-8020.

Volunteers, books needed now for annual spring sale

Although the Plant and Book Sale is still several months away, planning for the huge annual event is already in full swing.

Denver Botanic Gardens must recruit volunteers to help in all areas of the sale. More than 1,200 volunteers are needed to organize it and carry it out. Positions are available in most plant divisions and in customer service and at the check-out counters. Volunteers do not have to be knowledgeable about plants to help. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting event, DBG's most crucial fundraiser, call 331-4011.

Also for the sale, DBG's Helen Fowler Library needs your used books and other donated materials to sell. Proceeds from their sale, the library's largest money-maker, are the only source of funds to buy new books for the botanical and horticultural collections, and they will be used exclusively for that purpose. Used books on all subjects, videocassettes, audio recordings and magazines are sought. You can drop off your donations at the library or, to arrange a pick-up of more than four boxes, call 370-8014.

Your assistance with this important event will be appreciated.

December employee of the month

Special Events Supervisor Amy Capra was chosen December employee of the month for the creativity and hard work she's shown and for the resulting increase in quality of all DBG events — especially those for members. The increased attendance at events such as "Goblins in the Gardens" can be directly attributed to Amy's willingness to "do whatever it takes."

Her cooperative attitude and fun-loving spirit inspire her coworkers to take an extra effort to make the events work for our members and the public.

Goal in sight – you can help reach \$7 million

Late in 1995, via a mailing to our members titled “A Rare Opportunity,” members of Denver Botanic Gardens were invited to participate in our Leadership Campaign and to help us meet a challenge grant from the Boettcher Foundation. The response to this request has been wonderful; Leadership Campaign chairman Dick Kirk reports he is thrilled at the generosity of our members.

The DBG Board of Trustees has developed a plan for major capital improvements over the next few years. Pending approval by the City of Denver, several projects will be completed in 1996 and 1997, including a magnificent new Fragrance Garden, a new Waterway Garden, complete renovation of the Perennial Garden and of Boettcher Memorial Conservatory, expanded parking, extension of the Gift Shop and more. These improvements offer Denver Botanic Gardens the welcome opportunity to fulfill its potential as one of the nation’s foremost botanic gardens.

As well, DBG recently was given a rare opportunity to complete a significant phase of this plan — an opportunity in which members can play a crucial role. The Boettcher Foundation offered to contribute the final \$1.2 million needed to complete the current capital campaign, provided we could raise the balance of the goal from our family of members and donors: The balance is now just \$94,000!

You can still participate in this Boettcher Foundation Challenge. Any gift will be greatly appreciated. If you give \$100 or more you will receive a poster of a distinctive and rare Colorado plant, *Physaria bellii*. Donors of \$1,000 or more will receive an actual *Physaria bellii* in time for spring planting. Propagated by our research staff, *Physaria bellii* is a perfect botanical specimen to grace our thank you gift for those of you who join us in meeting the Boettcher Foundation Challenge.

When asked about the progress of the challenge, campaign chairman Kirk reported, “We now have well over \$6.9 million committed toward our \$7 million goal. With about \$94,000 to go, the goal is in sight and the Boettcher Foundation Challenge will be met. I encourage fellow members of the Gardens to join me in this rare opportunity to be a part of this great vision for our Gardens.”

If you would like to participate you may send your check to Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206. If you have any questions please call the development office, 370-8027.

—Molly Williams, Director
Membership and Development

New DBG borders use color in ‘Western’ style

There are only a few herbaceous perennial borders in North America built on the scale and size of the double borders of the O’Fallon Perennial Walk that will be planted at Denver Botanic Gardens in the coming months. In addition to the unheard-of number of species that will be on display, the borders will be a departure from tradition in their distinctively “Western” use of color.

Perennials have been grown and loved as long as there have been gardens, but there has been an unprecedented explosion of interest in recent years. In 1991 the Perennial Plant Association published its *Guide to Herbaceous Perennial Gardens in the United States and Canada*. It documents 258 public gardens in North America north of Mexico that feature perennial borders. They represent a bewildering variety of styles and approaches. Barely a handful contain more than a hundred kinds of perennials.

A series of borders are centerpieces of the Bellevue Botanical Garden in the Puget Sound area of the Pacific Northwest. They feature a comparable number of species and roughly the same size. Although these are beautifully coordinated, featuring a breathtaking variety of plants, they are designed by five or six individuals and comprise a series of distinct, if attached gardens. The North Carolina State University Arboretum features a particularly imposing border 300 feet long and 18 feet wide with more than 1,500 species. It was designed to display a color scheme closely following the theories of Gertrude Jekyll, the Victorian who elevated the herbaceous border to the level of high art.

DBG’s double borders will be distinguished from these two very grand herbaceous gardens by the extraordinary attention paid to the interweaving color motifs. Each section will contain a dominant color tone and a contrasting color echo that dominates the next quadrant, so that the garden subtly transforms as you walk past it, with waves of color, from subtle pastels near the entrance to more vibrant, hot colors near the central portions, ending on the south with deeper, more vibrant violets and moodier shades.

This border represents a significant departure from the Jekyllan color scheme by shifting the spectrum of vivid colors from the far end to the central part of the border — a response in large part to the way color performs in our intense sunlight.

The designers of DBG’s O’Fallon Perennial Walk, Rob Proctor and Lauren Springer, are well known to members of DBG as teachers and authors of numerous articles and books. Although both of them have designed ambitious borders for others, as well as in their own private gardens, DBG’s double borders, their first collaboration in a garden design, represent a new, higher expression of their artistry.

—Panayoti Kelaidis, Coordinator
DBG Plant Evaluation Program

Fourth-quarter Four Seasons members

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons members who began or renewed their memberships during the fourth quarter of 1995:

Ms. Sue Anschutz Rodgers
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Rollin D. Bamard
Mr. and Mrs. Peter H. Blair Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Burnett
Mrs. Samuel Butler Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald C. Cambre
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cleworth
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Collister
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Connors
Mr. and Mrs. James Cunningham
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Daley
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Davis
Mrs. Richard M. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Emery
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Gates
Mr. and Mrs. Newell M. Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. James Hartley
Mr. and Mrs. Cannon Harvey
Mr. and Mrs. William Hewit
Ms. Joy Hilliard
Mr. and Mrs. George Ireland
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kirk
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Koelbel
Mr. Richard Kylberg and Ms. Holly Lucas
Mrs. Kay Lawrence
Ms. Francy Lundberg
Ms. Sara Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Will Nicholson Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John Stampfer
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin
Mr. and Mrs. William Thurston
Ms. Nancy Ticken
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Todd
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Trevor
Mr. and Mrs. John Turner
Mr. and Mrs. John Tyler
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Vickers
Mr. and Mrs. John Williams

Four Seasons members, whose gifts of \$1,000 or more provide important support to the ongoing operation of the Gardens' research, education and horticultural programs, receive many enjoyable, exclusive membership benefits. For information call 370-8027.

Tributes

11

In memory of William Bolis
Rocky Mountain Seed Company
In memory of Lucille B. Grim
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Musgrave
In memory of Mr. Haring
Elaine and Jim Moses
In memory of Eugene Klenk, M.D.
John Nordin, M.D.
Janina S. Czartolomna, M.D.
Donna Ackerman, D.O.
Louise Ortiz, M.D.
Mark D. Flanigan, M.D.
Thomas Haddock, M.D.
Ms. Harlan Hanson

In memory of Bud and Rosemary Palmer
Alison and Clifford Winslow

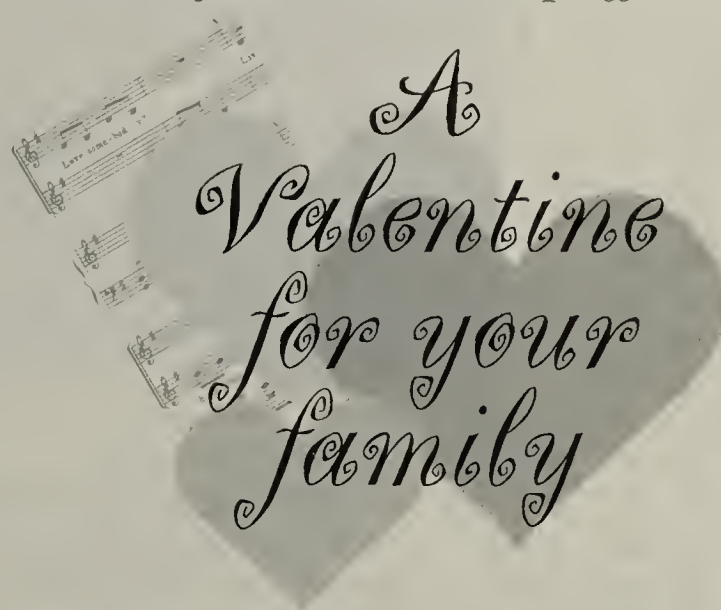
In memory of Mary Anne Sonnenberg
Ralph and Bette Wilkinson

In memory of Gladys Sunderland
Ardako and staff
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bowman
Mr. and Mrs. William Kingery, Jr.

In honor of Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin
Mr. & Mrs. George Ireland

Birthdays...anniversaries...memorials... You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

From your membership office



Bring kids to a musical Valentine's Day

Cupid is waiting just around the corner to make your Valentine's Day spectacular. Bring your children ages 3 to 12 to the Gardens on Sunday, Feb. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

In John C. Mitchell II Hall musical storyteller Eric West will use his large, unusual collection of instruments to entertain you to your heart's content. Following the stories, you can make your own fancy valentines. Special Valentine's Day refreshments will be served.

Cost is \$3 per person; children 2 and younger are free. Watch the mail for your invitation to this members-only event; then call 370-8018 to make your reservations. Space is limited!

Give a gift to make love bloom

With each gift membership purchased new or renewed during February, your membership office will include a packet of Applewood ornamental seeds. So along with your gift of a membership in the Gardens, your special someone will receive a packet of "love in a mist," "baby's breath," "Chinese lantern" or "money plant" seeds.

Call 370-8029 to order your gift today. And keep your love blooming all year.

Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.
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February

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Coming Up: Classes are in italics. An * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. For **course information** refer to DBG's winter/spring *Education Programs* or 303-370-8020. For **current events information:** 303-370-8187. For current plant and arts **society meeting information:** 303-370-8097.

February

- 2 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 3-11 Colorado Garden & Home Show
- 3 *Understanding Front Range Soils I*
* *Beginning Beekeeping*
Sweet Annie Wreath
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour
American Iris Society, Region 9 meeting
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 5, 6 *Intimate Gardens* Symposium
- 6 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 7 *You Can Grow Plants Indoors Without a Greenhouse*
- 8 * *Rocky Mountain Horticulture I—Gardening Principles*
Romance & Lace: Heart-Shaped Birch Wreath
Denver Rose Society meeting
- 10 *Close-up Flower Photography I*
Growing Plants Under Lights
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting
American Iris Society, Region 9 meeting
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 11 * *Home Vegetable Gardening*
Romantic Tuscan Dinner for Two
Valentine's Day Celebration—for members & their families
- 12 *Vines and Ground Covers*
- 13 * *Western Perennial Border*
- 17 * *Propagation Workshop*
* *From Angelica to Yarrow*
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour

- 18 * *Birds & Berries: Landscaping for Wildlife*
- 20 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 21 Rocky Mountain Chapter American Rock Garden Society meeting
- 22 * *Intermediate Bonsai: An Italian Stone Pine Forest*
Ikebana International Denver Chapter meeting
Gardeners of America meeting
African Violet Society of Denver meeting
- 24 * *Winter Botany: Tree Identification*
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour
- 25 *Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tours II*
* *Herbal Bath Pleasures*
- 26 * *Landscaping Basics for New Homeowners & Gardeners*
- 27 * *Chatfield Arboretum Naturalist Guide Training*
* *Outdoor Tour Guide Training*
- 28 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Des Kennedy, "Move Over, Monet"

March

- 1 Free day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 2 *How to Train Your Grapevine*
Chatfield Arboretum Drop-in Tour
Understanding Front Range Soils II
- 4 * *Impact of Color in Flower Arranging*
- 5 * *Never-Fail Perennials*
* *Starting a Business in Horticulture*
- 6 * *Smaller Rock Garden*
Plan Now for a Garden that Keeps on Giving
- 7 * *Organic Gardening Principles*

'Great Garden' photo contest deadline Feb. 16

If you're entering photos in the 1996 "Picture a Great Garden" contest, your entries must be in by Feb. 16.

If you've taken a great picture at one of four DBG sites — 1005 York St., Chatfield Arboretum, Mount Goliath or Walter S. Reed Botanical Garden — don't miss this opportunity to win a Pentax camera, a year's photo developing services, film or a DBG membership. Outstanding photos will be displayed in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall March 22 to 24.

To receive a copy of the contest rules, an entry form and directions to the various DBG sites call 370-8018.

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DBG RESEARCH PROGRAMS

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Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

March 1996



Steven Still's Bonfils-Stanton lecture, "The Perennial Presence," second in series

Just in time to help you plan spring activities in your perennial garden, DBG's Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series brings Steven Still to Denver. One of the country's most knowledgeable speakers on perennial plants, he will spur your imagination with his slide show at the Gardens, "The Perennial Presence," Wednesday, March 27, at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m..

Known for his wonderful photographs, he will show you beautiful gardens from Europe and the U.S. — private and public gardens, double borders, and rock and water gardens.

Still is executive director of the Perennial Plant Association, professor of horticulture at Ohio State University, an author and photographer. He is the former director of the Chadwick Arboretum at Ohio State University.

He also is the National Director of Garden Writers Association of America and was the editor for *Taylor's Guide to Perennials* and *Taylor's Guide to Shrubs*. His photographs have appeared in *Horticulture* magazine, numerous Time-Life books, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Successful Flower Gardening* magazines.

His book *Manual of Herbaceous Ornamental Plants* is used as a textbook in more than 100 universities and is considered an invaluable resource by professionals in Colorado's green industry. Still's leadership in the plant community from his post in the Perennial Plant Association and his relationship with an international trade association for herbaceous perennials gives him an international view of his subject.

This lecture series has been generously supported by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation since 1987. All presentations are in John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St.

Please call the registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019, to register or ask questions. DBG members' tickets are \$8; nonmembers' tickets are \$12. DBG's Helen Fowler Library will be open from 6 to 7 p.m. the evening of the lecture. The Gardens' Gift Shop carries books by Swift; he will autograph purchases after the lecture.



Dr. Steven Still

Contest photos on view in March

If winter has you in the mood for bright colors, beautiful flowers and enticing garden scenes, you should see Denver Botanic Gardens' third "Picture a Great Garden" photo show March 22 to 24. Members are invited to a special preview. (See page 5 for details.)

Amateur photographers have been busy this past summer, fall and winter scouting shots to enter in this annual photo contest. Photos were taken at DBG's four sites, 1005 York St., Chatfield Arboretum, Mount Goliath or Walter S. Reed Botanical Garden. The top photo in the adult and youth categories garnered new Pentax cameras for the winners.

If you miss the preview party, you can see the photographs in John C. Mitchell II Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The show is included in DBG's standard admission fee (free to members). For more information, call 370-8187.

Inside this GTN:

Plant societies stage a season of shows at the Gardens.

— page 2

Members are invited to special photo show preview.

— page 5

Fifth DBG mountain wildflower tour is set for July.

— page 6

From the executive director

As this issue goes to press, it is snowing outside my window. When you receive this, it may be a balmy spring day – or it may be snowing again. No matter the weather. Although it still may be too early to dig in your own gardens it is not too early to come see DBG in bloom.

The Rock Alpine Garden is already blooming and will give you a breath of fresh air and renew your sense of beauty in the early spring. Each week from now until fall frost, the Rock Alpine Garden unfolds with new blossoms. Also, don't miss the early flowering minor bulbs along the crabapple walk, which are in all their glory. It is a splendid time to visit.

Spring brings a flurry of activity in the classrooms, too. So think about sharpening your gardening skills now, just in time to apply your new-found knowledge. I especially hope you will sign up for the Water-Smart Gardening symposium. Our new Water-Smart Garden, just south of Boettcher Memorial Conservatory, has proven to be a favorite after just one full season. Watch it grow, mature and change this year. You will gain new ideas for your own garden.

Later this spring we will complete the new O'Fallon Perennial Walk along the main path running north and south through the Gardens. This magnificent walk will be a masterpiece of western gardening, adapting the traditional perennial garden to our climate.

While DBG's gardens are beautiful in all seasons, there is something special about the early spring. After a long winter, our spring time flowers renew and refresh our spirits as in no other season. Come, enjoy!

—Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Green Thumb News March 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033
Deadline for May issue: Mar. 16

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Leprechauns to show prized African violets

Leprechauns of the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council will stage their 33rd annual spring show and sale at the Gardens Saturday afternoon and Sunday, March 16 and 17. And, until they run out, they will give a free starter plant to each visitor to the event.

Hundreds of plants will be shown, in all the colors and forms that this amazing houseplant now assumes, from tiny miniatures to trailers, with nearly as many colors in their leaves as in their flowers.

The event is open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information call 237-5514.

Rock garden society sells alpine plants

The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will hold its annual alpine plant sale, "Romancing the Alpines," Saturday, April 6, in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. alpine plant growers from Colorado will offer exotic plants and gardening hardware.

Beginning at 11 a.m. experts will conduct 15-minute demonstrations on topics such as how to make a trough, how to plant a trough, where to place rocks, starting new plants and identifying labels. For more information call 794-3335.

World of cacti at the Gardens Mar. 30 & 31

Thousands of cacti and succulents, a virtual desert paradise, will be on display and for sale at the Gardens March 30 and 31 in the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society's annual spring event.

One interesting part of the weekend will be the horticultural and botanical competition. If you would like to enter your unusual or well-grown plants, bring them to Mitchell Hall Friday afternoon until 8 p.m.

Experts will be on hand during the show to share tips on growing both tropical and hardy plants. Books, hats, T-shirts, potting soil, containers, fertilizers and other cactus-related items will be for sale.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, with drawings each hour for door prizes.

'Petals of Light' chosen for plant sale image

The fine art image selected for DBG's 1996 Plant and Book Sale poster is "Petals of Light" by Betty Stephan.

The beautiful 24-inch by 28-inch oil painting depicts petunia-filled clay pots delicately backed by sunlight. Hints of blue shadows and orange clay offset the dramatic pink and white petals and green foliage.

"Painting is my expression of the joy of life and the beauty that unites all people," Stephan exclaims. A full-time artist, she is equally at ease painting plein-air or in her studio. She has painted for more than 15 years and studied at the Rocky Mountain School of Art and Design and with nationally and internationally recognized artists.

For the past two years her works were part of the Anniversary Collection of Channel 6. In 1995 she won two awards from the Pastel Society of America in New York – the board of directors award and the purchase prize award.

Denverite Stephan's art is shown at Upper Edge Gallery of Aspen, Highlands Gallery of Breckenridge and Abend Gallery in Denver.

"Petals of Light" was chosen from more than 120 entries. The painting will be auctioned May 9 at this year's Plant Sale Preview Party. Decorator posters and T-shirts with the "Petals of Light" image will be sold at the Plant and Book Sale Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, and in the DBG Gift Shop.



Public Service
A NEW ENERGY.

DBG shares 'ART with Energy' for kids

A recent grant from Public Service Company's "ART with Energy" program will allow Denver Botanic Gardens to enter Boulder Valley Schools with a free outreach program that combines science and art for elementary students.

The program "Leaf it to Me" will teach children about plant biology through hands-on investigations, help them make connections between science and art by doing leaf rubbings and prints, and relate plants to their lives through comparisons of plant and human processes of respiration.

The program will complement another grant-funded program, "Designs in Science" which will take place at local science centers, including DBG, throughout 1996. (See related article in February GTN, page 4.)

For more information about "ART with Energy" please contact DBG youth education specialist Geri Warfield, 370-8043.



"Petals of Light" by Betty Stephan

Here Comes the Sun!

Come have fun and get the first pick of the plants & books

at the 47th annual

Denver Botanic Gardens Plant & Book Sale

Preview Party

Thursday, May 9, 1996

5-8 p.m.

1005 York Street

\$40 per person

(\$25 tax-deductible contribution)

Live music by
Pan Jumbies

Caribbean buffet & cash bar catered by
Le Petit Gourmet

Receive a \$5 discount on plant purchases over \$75
(members receive an additional 10% off purchases)

House plants and a selection of books will be available
for sale in the Education Building

Attire: Caribbean casual
Advance reservations required

For additional information, please call 331-8064

DBG Sensory Garden a stimulating experience

A toddler about three years old intently watches a bumblebee buzzing from flower to flower while a group of seniors sit quietly listening to the water fountain and enjoying the warm spring breeze. They are experiencing DBG's intimate Sensory Garden.

Found directly across York Street from the main campus in what is known as the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center, the Sensory Garden is a remarkable little garden planted to appeal to all five senses of people with any physical ability. The plants are grouped according to traits that stimulate not only sight, but taste, smell, hearing and touch.

This is a garden always in change. Early summer brings out the pink dianthus, filling the garden air with a spicy scent. Nearby are several species of mint, including orange, chocolate, spearmint and peppermint, and a large variety of basil.

The rest of the courtyard is planted with specific multi-sensory themes. Last year it included decorative and edible vegetables grown in containers. Intermixed within the vegetables were marigolds, verbena, salvia, sunflowers and cosmos, to demonstrate how well they appear together.

Another theme – to be repeated this year – is the container-grown night garden. Because the late afternoon and evening are such special times in the Sensory Garden – with the day's fading light and the garden's quiet atmosphere – it's a time to experience the exotic fragrances of stocks and flowering tobacco and the glow of silver-foliaged dusty miller and gazania.

In the window boxes are traditional plantings especially for the many children who visit the Sensory Garden. Here, they can investigate interesting, fun plants, such as the cigar plant; hare's tail grass and different varieties of sedum for touching; snapdragons, which can be squeezed to make the "dragon's" mouth open; and the sensitive plant whose leaves fold closed when it's touched. This year's children's boxes will play upon the common names of plants such as "Flamingo Feathers" celosia, "Dragon's Blood" sedum and "Rocket Mix" snapdragon.

Window boxes also are planted with old fashioned flowers specifically to trigger visitors' memories: fragrant petunias, roses, allysum and stocks.

Look also this year for a burgandy theme in okra, beans and eggplant, which complement the rust-colored tiles; and plants that produce items that relate to our everyday life, such as cotton, paper and flour.

If you sit quietly in the Sensory Garden you can hear birds feeding on berries and seeds, goldenrain tree seed pods rustling in the wind, water trickling from the fountain and the feet shuffling along the pathway.

To appreciate this unique sensory garden you must pause and contemplate all the sensory stimulations around you. Then everyday stresses seem to vanish with the gentle spring breeze.

Take some time, too, to visit the raised beds located in the adjacent community gardens for more ideas on accessible gardening. Adaptive gardening techniques and structures are demonstrated throughout the grounds of the center.

The Sensory Garden is located on the corner of York Street and 11th Avenue. It is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and admission is free. Tours from June through September for groups participating in therapy or rehabilitation programs may be scheduled by contacting the education department, 370-8020.

– Christine Kramer
DBG Horticultural Therapy Assistant

Assisted listening devices aid visitors

Denver Botanic Gardens has installed assistive listening devices (ALDs) to make its facility more accessible to the hard-of-hearing. A permanent device has been installed in John C. Mitchell II Hall, and a portable one has been purchased for the classrooms. Both are infrared systems that use a microphone and emitter in line-of-sight with a receiver. Visitors can reserve receivers ahead of time.

On a trial basis a slightly different type of ALD has been installed at the York Street entrance gate house. This system will benefit anyone having a hard time hearing gate house staff due to traffic, lawn mowers or other external noise. The device doesn't actually amplify voices; sound waves are sent on a different frequency that is compatible with the "T-coil" in hearing aids. For those who do not use hearing aids, a specially adapted phone can be handed out through the window.

For information on ALDs call horticultural therapy assistant Tonda Schroeder, 331-5777.

Information on tour guide opportunities

Members can learn all about DBG tour guide programs by attending the open house for prospective tour guides on March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Experienced guides will answer your questions and explain more about the five groups of guides at DBG while you enjoy light refreshments. While the event is free, pre-registration is required. Call 370-8020, bring a friend, and discover the fun and excitement of joining DBG's volunteer corps.

Tree value maintained by careful transplanting

5

In a semi-arid, high altitude grassland environment such as Denver's, the value of trees to humans is so great that it cannot be estimated.

Plants, especially trees, and their wildlife connect us to the natural world. Trees shade our homes in the summer and insulate them from heat-robbing wind and cold in the winter. And, although we can appreciate the beauty of the natural landscapes of Eastern Colorado, it is dreadful to imagine the grimness of a city with no trees.

As DBG embarks on improvements to its gardens, we are even more aware of the value of our trees. Renovating a public garden has good and bad points. From a career horticulturist's view the worst of the bad is the potential elimination of trees that we have cultivated here for almost half my lifetime.

Fortunately, the planning process for each garden includes evaluation of at-risk trees by our staff and tree moving experts. We then will work hard to find new homes here at DBG for each tree. In 1995 we replanted eight large specimens. As many as 30 more will need to be transplanted in 1996. Over the next 18 months visitors will witness the immensity of this undertaking.

The simplicity of the transplanting process is deceptive. It requires a thorough evaluation of the condition of the tree and its new location; impressive skill in handling the cement mixer-size truck and its hydraulic tree spade – and a great deal of patience.

Ideally, each specimen should be root pruned manually or with a tree spade the year prior to its scheduled transplanting to encourage the plant to

increase its root mass within the area of the eventual rootball. If at all possible the new site should be prepared before the tree is dug so that it can be replanted immediately.

The transplanting process involves either the use of a tree spade or any number of manual methods of digging and containing the root ball. Once dug, the tree should be kept as upright as possible and stabilized to minimize shifting due to the weight of the soil. The tree is lowered carefully into its new planting hole. The original soil level must be approximately 2 inches above the grade of its new location. Soil is backfilled into the hole and the hole is "puddled" two to three times with water to eliminate air pockets. The root ball and the surrounding area need to be kept evenly moist to encourage root growth into the tree's new home.

Trees transpire year-round so, no matter what time of year the tree is moved, it is beneficial to mist its top with water whenever the air temperature is over 40F to help replace lost moisture. During the warmer months a 60-second misting three times a day is recommended. DBG will install a misting irrigation system in the canopy of each transplanted large tree to help it through its first growing season. A half-strength foliar application of balanced fertilizer will be applied weekly.

Although we have identified new sites for many of the trees, some will be either relocated to Chatfield Arboretum or be made available for sale.

– Joann Narverud

DBG Horticultural Operations Supervisor

January employee of the month

January's employee of the month is Billjean Schneidewind, education department administrative assistant. Billjean is recognized for her willingness to take on the increased responsibilities required of her these past several months. Through her enthusiastic effort and initiative, she has shown a commendable dedication and commitment to the Gardens.

Thanks for all your hard work, Billjean!

Tree expert to speak on Denver damage

Alex Shigo, researcher on pruning and treating trees, comes to Denver Saturday, April 6, for a one-day seminar, presented by CBG Associates, at the Arvada Center for the Arts. Dr. Shigo is the authority who teaches the experts.

Speaking on the "Impact of Storm Damage on Trees," he explains what to expect from your trees as they recover from damage.

The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Denver Botanic Gardens members are offered the preferred rate of \$55. Students in Denver Botanic Gardens' Rocky Mountain Horticulture Certificate Program are urged to attend. For registration or information, please contact Bill Cassell, 467-1729, or Gayle Weinstein, 388-2727, before March 31.

Picture a Great Garden

Preview for DBG members only

See the entries in this year's contest

Thursday, March 21

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Wine & Cheese

Music by classical guitarist Janet Feder

John C. Mitchell II Hall

1005 York St.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 19: 370-8018

Fifth Annual

Wildflower Tour

July 13-15, 1996

Join your fellow DBG members for three days among the wildflowers and the natural beauty of our Colorado mountains.

Hoosier Pass, Shrine Pass and Loveland Pass will be the destinations for field trips led by plant experts each day. Our Vail stay will include the cultural experience of Bravo!Colorado Vail Valley Music Festival, lovely private homes and gardens, deluxe hotel accommodations and delicious catered meals. This will be an active trip with high altitude hiking each day and will be limited to 28 physically fit individuals.

Highlights

- ♥ A pre-departure educational evening with with Colorado's well-known plant ecologist, naturalist and author, Dr. Beatrice Willard
- ♥ Two nights' accommodation at the deluxe Vail Cascade Club (formerly the Westin Resort) at the base of Vail Mountain
- ♥ All meals, except breakfasts, including two dinners catered in private homes
- ♥ Saturday evening reserved seating at the Bravo!Colorado performance in Ford Amphitheater
- ♥ Wildflower identification field trip on Loveland Pass with Dr. Willard
- ♥ Wildflower identification field trips on Hoosier Pass and Shrine Pass with experts from the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens
- ♥ Beautiful private gardens
- ♥ Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- ♥ Fully escorted throughout by Barbara Baldwin and Knobby Brown

Space is strictly limited; reservations will be secured in the order deposits are received.

Cost is \$440 per person based on double occupancy, which includes a \$35 tax-deductible, voluntary donation to Denver Botanic Gardens. Single room supplement is \$157. Deposit is \$150 per person. Final payment is due June 4. For more information call Tammy Gates, 370-8064; Barbara Baldwin, 783-0010; or Knobby Brown, 832-6175.

Please reserve _____ places for the Fifth Annual Wildflower Tour July 13-15.
Enclosed is my check for _____ (\$150 per person) in deposit.

I will share a room with _____

Name(s)	Member ID		
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone	Charge my reservations to <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC		
Credit card #	Exp. date		

Please make check payable to Denver Botanic Gardens, Attn: Tammy Gates, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206. Payments are refundable less a \$25 administrative fee plus any unrecoverable costs.

Environment improved for orchid upgrades

Extensive improvements in the environmental control systems in Marnie's Pavilion to enhance the growing conditions for the orchid and bromeliad collections will allow long-awaited additions to the collections this year.

Improvements encompass more efficient exhaust fans and shutters; new dampers on the cooling pad system; new steam fin tubes, valves and pumps; six new 12-inch air circulation fans; and a new shade system inside the roof of the lower-level greenhouse on the south and west sides.

According to orchid horticulturist Peggy Brown, these improvements should allow the horticultural staff to develop outstanding orchid and bromeliad collections for display in the upper part of Marnie's Pavilion.

Especially desirable for educational display are plants that demonstrate the amazing range of evolutionary differentiation that species in the orchid family have undergone to attract pollinators. Brown relates that the flowers of some species are so small they must be viewed under magnification; others are huge; and many species are known for their heady fragrances – from nauseating to divine.

"Of course we will not ignore the beautifully showy hybrids that our visitors expect to see," says Brown. "These hybrids deserve a major place in the collection, if only for their overwhelming beauty." But she notes, also, that because of the diversity in hybridized genera, they could be of instructional interest, as well, to show the historical paths of the hybridizer's art.

Members can look forward to dramatic changes in the displays in Marnie's Pavilion. Of interest, too, will be the annual spring show by the Denver Orchid Society. This year it will be held at the Gardens in April; details will be in the next *Green Thumb News*.

Summertime Kids: from art to zinnias

A curriculum of fun courses from one to four days in length is being prepared for children at the Gardens this summer. There are classes to inspire budding artists, challenge aspiring naturalists and kindle an interest in other cultures for children from preschool age through those entering sixth grade.

"Summertime Kids" begins the week of June 10 and continues through Aug. 8. For additional information or to register, contact the education office, 370-8020 (TDD 370-8032), for a detailed brochure.

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks the following who began or renewed their memberships in the fourth-quarter of 1995 at supporting levels.

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Tributes

In memory of Charles Angle

Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton

In memory of Judge John Brooks

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Connors

In memory of Jack Danford

Mr. William Collister

In memory of Lucille B. Grim

Ms. Helen Berstein

Ms. Harriet Barker

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Glantz

In memory of Edward H. Honnen

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

Ms. Anne Weckbaugh

In memory of Bruce Hulbert

Patty & Rollie Bamard

In memory of Eugene Klenk M.D.

Kevin & Cynthia Corbett

In memory of Harold "Bud" May

Ann Bersani, Michael Durkin & Children

Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Drawbaugh

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Mr. Ernest J. Pappas

Mr. Harry K. Pappas

Karl & Inge Siebert

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wall

Miss Allison Ann May

In memory of Jane McCotter

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell II

In memory of Lucius Woods

KeyCorp

In honor of Francy Kurtz Lundberg

Bill and Alma Kurtz

In honor of Melony Honnen Shennen

Ms. Melissa Shennan

Birthdays...anniversaries...memorials...You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

From your membership office

Behind-the-scenes adventure

Arbor Circle, Botanist Club, Conservator's Society & Four Seasons members are invited to a special behind-the-scenes adventure at the Gardens Wednesday, April 17. Refreshments will be provided; open house times are at 5:30 and 6:30. Reservations are required for this fascinating exploration of DBG's production greenhouse areas: Call 370-8018.

Reminder: water-smart gardens symposiums

Members are reminded to sign up soon for one of DBG's great water-smart gardening symposiums March 8 or 9. You'll hear the advice of David Winger, Marcia Tatroe, Al Rollinger, Susan Yetter, Ray Daugherty and Kelly Grummonds — all recognized regional experts. Denver Botanic Gardens has for years been a leader in the field of horticultural water conservation. These workshops are your way to stay abreast of this important movement. Call 370-8020 to register.

Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.
 909 York Street
 Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

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TIME VALUE • Mar. 1, 1996

March

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Coming Up: Classes are in italics. An * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. For **course information** refer to DBG’s winter/spring *Education Programs* or 303-370-8020. For **current events information:** 303-370-8187. For current plant and arts **society meeting information:** 303-370-8097.

- March**
 - 1 Free day at Chatfield Arboretum
 - 2 *How to Train Your Grapevine*
Understanding Front Range Soils II
Chatfield Arboretum Drop in Tour
 - 4 * *Impact of Color in Flower Arranging*
 - 5 * *Never-Fail Perennials*
* *Starting a Business in Horticulture*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
 - 6 * *Smaller Rock Garden*
Plan Now for a Garden that Keeps on Giving
 - 7 * *Organic Gardening Principles*
Herb Wreath Thyme!
Denver Rose Society meeting
 - 8 *Designing a Water-Smart Garden Symposium I*
 - 9 *Your First Water Garden: Small Containers*
Designing a Water-Smart Garden Symposium II
Free day at Denver Art Museum
 - 11 * *Tropical Trees: Beginning Indoor Bonsai*
Colorado Mycological Society meeting
 - 12 *Botanical Illustration, Mixed Media I & II*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
 - 13 * *Easy Flower Garden*
 - 14 * *Easy Orchid*
* *Intermediate Bonsai: Maple Grove*
Open House for Volunteer Tour Guides
 - 16 * *Beyond Phalaenopsis*
Free day at Denver Art Museum
 - 16, 17 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council
Spring Show & Sale
- 17 Mile High Daylily Society meeting
 - 19 Free day at Denver Zoo
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
 - 20 *From Cuts to Creations*
American Rock Garden Society Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting
 - 21 Members Preview: “Picture a Great Garden” – for members only
 - 22-24 “Picture a Great Garden” Photo Show
 - 23 * *Water Gardening for Beginners*
Sun Dogs, Weather and Gardening
Free day at Denver Art Museum
 - 24 *Perfect Tuscan Pastas and Risottos*
Behind-the-Scenes Greenhouse Tour III
 - 25 * *Water-Wise Flower Garden*
Ultra Violet Club meeting
 - 26 Colorado Native Plant Society meeting
 - 27 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Steven Still, “The Perennial Presence”
 - 28 African Violet Society of Denver meeting
Ikebana International meeting
 - 30 *Cacti & Other Succulents for Beginners*
* *Principles of Pruning*
* *Rose Garden*
Everlasting Wreath
Free day at Denver Art Museum
 - 30, 31 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society
Show & Sale



It’s time to sign up for Denver Botanic Gardens’ second BirdHaus Competition. Are you an architect, landscape architect or designer? A carpenter, artist or student? An ornithologist? Do you know how to fly? Test your originality, whimsy, craftsmanship, functionality, practicality or humor. Everyone can enter – all ages, individuals or teams.

Join the fun! Register to enter by May 20.

Entry Form

No registration fee is required. I (We) understand the entry becomes the property of Denver Botanic Gardens. I (We) plan to submit one entry to the BirdHaus Competition and agree to comply with its published conditions and requirements. Call 370-8055 for complete guidelines.

Entry Title

Description

Entry displayed in the following way:

- indoors:**
☐ on a pedestal
 ☐ hanging
 ☐ self-supported
- outdoors:**
☐ on a pedestal
 ☐ hanging
 ☐ self-supported

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Country

Phone (home)

(work)

Mail or fax to:

BirdHaus Competition
 Denver Botanic Gardens 909 York Street Denver, CO 80206-3799 Fax (303) 331-4013

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

April 1996



DBG Plant and Book Sale announces arrival of spring planting, garden shopping season



As you make your spring plant shopping list be sure to include Denver Botanic Gardens' 47th Plant and Book Sale May 10 and 11.

This annual sale has come to signify the start of the planting season. Denver area gardeners rely on the sale to provide all their spring planning and planting needs. With more than a quarter-million plants available, the sale offers the convenience of one-stop garden shopping. It unveils new and unusual plants and brings back thousands of popular tried and true varieties from years past. Experts are on-hand in each division to offer plant care and garden planning advice.

Ample parking is just a double-decker bus ride away, at the south end of the Target parking lot, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., in Glendale. The free buses zip shoppers to and from the sale every 20 minutes. Since a limited number of shopping carts will be available again this year, you're encouraged to bring your own wagon.

When you need a break from the sun, you'll find plenty to peruse at the book sale indoors: More than 10,000 used books, videocassettes, records and magazines will be for sale in the downstairs classrooms. Books are sorted conveniently by category: Whether you're interested in gardening, cooking, romance or children's sub-

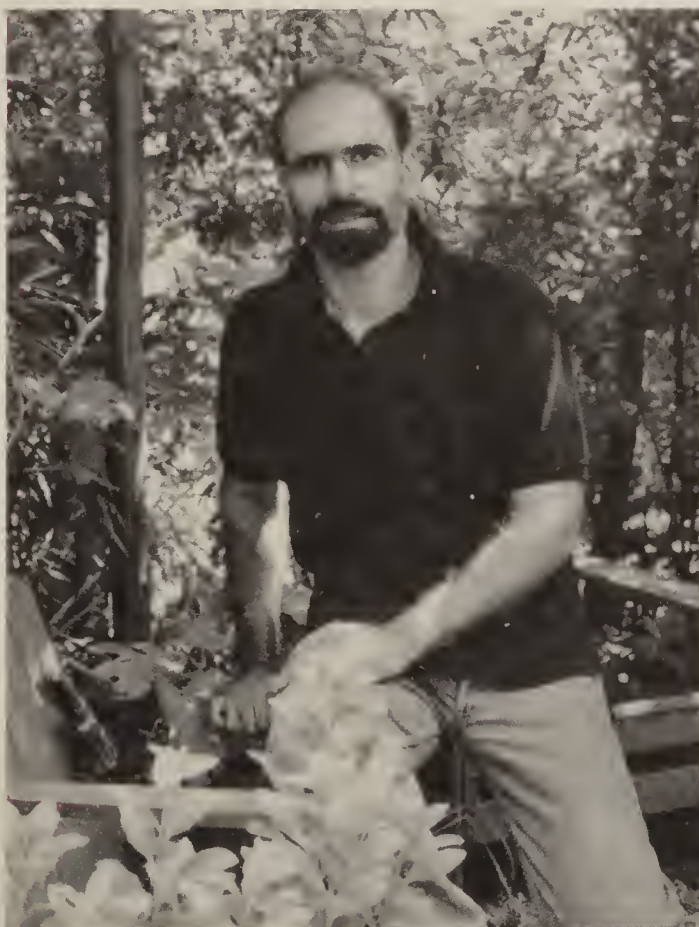
jects, you'll find something, for almost nothing. All proceeds from the book sale benefit DBG's Helen Fowler Library.

After you've crossed everything off your shopping list and have learned all there is to know from the helpful volunteers, you'll be whisked through the checkout stations by experienced cashiers. You can leave your large purchases with plant valets, return with your car and let them pack your plants for the trip home.

Also check out this year's posters and T-shirts. The image is from an oil painting of petunia-filled clay pots delicately backed by sunlight. Artist Betty Stephan will be on-hand to sign posters throughout both days.

Admission to the sale is free. Members who show their cards, seniors 65 and older and physically challenged persons can enter the gates at 8:30 a.m. The sale is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For more information, call 370-8187.

The Plant and Book Sale May 10 and 11 offers gardeners the best shopping opportunities in the area.



Ken Druse, the third Bonfils-Stanton lecturer, addresses designing with extraordinary plants April 34. Please see story on page 3.

Inside this GTN:

Executive director reports progress on improvement projects.

— page 2

Summer concerts, plays and festivals are confirmed.

— page 3

Plant & Book Sale divisions announce their exciting 1996 plans.

— page 4

SWINGLE



Swingle Tree a long-time DBG friend

One company's commitment to the Gardens goes back to the Gardens' very first fund-raising activity: the company's founder, John Swingle, was auctioneer at the first plant sale.

For years Swingle Tree Company has contributed steadfastly to Denver Botanic Gardens. The company's efforts have preserved two American elms at the Waring House at the corner of Ninth Avenue and York Street. Its support of Chatfield Arboretum has included a new wood chipper, many tons of mulch and a full day of storm repair work after last September's destructive snow-storm.

Swingle's wide range of landscape services provides a large base of expertise when needs arise at the Gardens and the Arboretum. We are grateful to have Swingle Tree Company as a corporate friend of the Gardens.

From the executive director

I'm pleased to report that Denver Botanic Gardens made substantial progress on two major improvement projects when the Denver Planning Board decided in early March to make favorable recommendation on them to the Manager of Parks and Recreation.

The projects are the expansion of the parking lot between York and Josephine streets to double the number of parking spaces and the removal of the vacant La Jolla apartments, on Gaylord Street north of the conservatory, where we will eventually create staff and volunteer parking.

We presented requests, also, to expand the Gift Shop and to renovate the interior of Boettcher Memorial Conservatory. The Planning Board declined to review these projects because the City's Landmark Commission will review them in the near future.

The four projects had been reviewed by the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, whose favorable recommendation should assist us in winning the Landmark Commission approval. This was the first time neighborhood views had been formally solicited in the recently established process to give our neighbors a voice in the Gardens' future.

All the projects must be approved by Denver Parks and Recreation, the agency through which DBG reports to the City. Final approvals are expected soon. We are working on the construction schedules for the projects and, although the timetable is still tentative and subject to change, we hope to begin expansion of the parking lot in mid-September. Right now removal of the La Jolla apartments is scheduled for this December.

Expansion of the Gift Shop, by moving its present exterior walls a few feet to the east and south, will probably take place in early 1997. The interior renovation of the Conservatory for new displays and for improved accessibility and utility systems will take place from January to October 1997.

Soon we will seek approval of several other projects, including the Fragrance Garden, the Waterway Garden and the Temperate Greenhouse, all in the southeastern part of the Gardens; a Children's Garden east of the Japanese Garden; and expansion and renovation of the Boettcher Education Center, home of our library, classrooms and John C. Mitchell II Hall.

DBG's trustees, staff and a number of dedicated volunteers have been working on the concepts, designs and fund-raising for these projects for a number of years. In response to the Neighborhood Advisory Committee many of the projects have been modified to minimize their impact on the people who live near the Gardens, yet still enable us to strengthen Denver Botanic Gardens' ability to improve and enrich the lives of its members and visitors. It is extremely gratifying to see that the new process with our neighbors is beginning to work and to know that we can move forward with our plans.

—Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Intern housing needed

Denver Botanic Gardens interns arrive in June for a 10-week or six-month internship. They need reasonable rent, proximity to the Gardens and availability of a kitchen. If you would like to share part of your house with a DBG intern, please call DBG adult education specialist Paula Ogilvie, (303) 370-8041.

Green Thumb News April 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for June issue: Apr. 19

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Exciting new displays in the lobby court

In 1996 visitors to the Gardens will see fully interpreted, exciting displays in DBG's lobby court.

The displays will feature "Plant Evolution – from Algae to Angiosperms" through April 21. April 27 through July 7 experience the "Wonders of Flowers," both live and represented in macro-photography. July 13 through Sept. 22 is a stunning display of cacti and euphorbias that explores plant adaptations to arid environments. Then, Sept. 28 to Nov. 22, the display will emphasize the importance of conservation of the world's rainforests.

Finally, Dec. 1 through Jan. 3, 1997, the lobby court will be extravagantly decorated to celebrate the winter holidays and DBG's "Blossoms of Light."

Concerts, theater, festivals in store for DBG summer visitors

Concerts, theater performances, evening strolls and festivals once again will delight summer visitors at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Classical music, jazz and family sing-alongs are on the calendar, with six adult concerts and two family shows to be scheduled for June, July and August. Then, Compass Theatre Company will wind up the Gardens' summer performances with four evenings of *al fresco* theater. This year's exciting line-up will be announced in May.

"Sunset Strolls" in the Gardens return six evenings this summer. On evenings to be announced, the Gardens will reopen from 5:15 to 8 p.m. and visitors can stroll the grounds, listen to soft music and enjoy gourmet refreshments.

Several festivals are on tap for the summer. July 11, DBG celebrates herbs with an Herb Festival that will feature talks by local and national herb experts, cooking demonstrations, an herb plant sale and herb craft booths. The Fall Gardening Fair wraps up the summer Sept. 7 and 8 with educational lectures, demonstrations and activities.

DBG members receive reduced rates for all strolls and festivals. Members at the Arbor Circle level and above also can purchase concert and theater tickets at a lower rate. For more information, call 370-8187.

Native Plant Society invites DBG members to saxifrage lecture

The Colorado Native Plant Society invites DBG members to a special lecture by Douglas E. Soltis on the native saxifrages of Colorado Friday, April 5. The lecture will be in the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center at 7:30 p.m.

Soltis is one of the nation's leading experts on the saxifrage family. He did his doctoral research on the genus *Sullivantia*.

There is no admission charge for the lecture, but reservations are required due to limited seating. Call Bill Jennings, 665-6903.

"Collector's Garden" looks at revolutionary plants and people

The third program in the Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series, "The Collector's Garden — Designing with Extraordinary Plants," will be presented by Ken Druse, an internationally recognized lecturer, photographer and author on Wednesday, April 24. Druse's talk will be given twice, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., in John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St.

As American gardeners mature and enter the next stage of their favorite devotion, they may find that most plants available at the local garden center are not colorful, interesting, sensational, bizarre, tall or short enough to create the effects they desire. However, these plants exist; in this lecture, Druse will show them to you, as he takes you on a journey to revolutionary gardens and introduces some of the people who will be shaping the direction of your favorite pastime.

Druse's passion for plants is infectious. His message is as universal as the desire to learn, and as seductive as a shopping spree. You will learn about new ways to shop for the most remarkable plants in the botanical kingdom.

Meet the "hunters," people who search for new plants here and abroad; the "missionaries," propagators and environmentalists who want to disseminate their favorite plants or help conserve them; the "specialists," enthusiasts who collect a certain genus or form of plants, such as dwarf evergreens, or plants that live in specific habitats, such as deserts or woodlands; and the "aesthetes," those whose passion is driven by anything beautiful that can promote the exquisite nature of their gardens.

Druse has appeared on PBS's "The Victory Garden" television series, "Martha Stewart Living, the New Garden," "CBS News" and "The Indoor Gardener." He has been the contributing gardening editor to *House Beautiful* magazine since 1980.

His best-selling books, including *The Natural Garden*, *The Natural Habitat Garden* and *The Natural Shade Garden*, have helped popularize the natural-gardening movement — a new way to work in partnership with nature to create beautiful, ecologically appropriate landscapes.

Members may attend the lecture for \$8; cost for nonmembers is \$12. Helen Fowler Library will remain open from 6 to 7 p.m. the evening of the lecture. The Gardens' Gift Shop carries books by Druse, and he will autograph your copies after the lecture. For more information or to register call 370-8019 or 370-8020.



Denver Botanic Gardens

PLANT & BOOK SALE

MAY 10 & 11, 1996

Plant sale Garden Grown Division ready to dig, needs volunteers

The Garden Grown Division of the Plant and Book Sale is looking for digging enthusiasts interested in helping pot up plants from DBG's beds to sell at the plant sale in May. The division meets behind DBG's production greenhouses every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your gloves, trowels, scissors or pruning shears, and join in this fun activity while making your own contribution to the plant sale. For more information call Pat Miller, 232-6564, or Marilyn Moore, 388-6934.

Fruits & Berries Division offers "lost" apples, new varieties

The Fruits and Berries Division will have many unusual plants at the plant sale this May. Two kinds of apple trees that have been "lost to record" will be for sale. Both were located in abandoned orchards and have been carefully propagated for the sale. "John" and "York" elderberry plants will be sold as a couple — both planted in the same pot — since they need each other to produce fruit. Four different varieties of raspberries, including a golden variety, will be available, and new to the sale this year is a red wine grape for Denver's climate.

Don't forget your indoor planting needs: look indoors at sale

If you're looking for a houseplant stop in John C. Mitchell II Hall during this year's Plant and Book Sale.

The Bromeliad Division offers something for everyone, from inexpensive seedlings to large blooming plants. The ever-popular "air plants" and silver vase plants will be in ample supply. Extra-special plants will be featured on the "collector's table."

In addition, a beautiful variety of houseplants, a collection of exotic orchids and plenty of cacti and succulents will be for sale. Experts will be on-hand to offer growing advice on filling your house with indoor blooms throughout the year.

Pee Wee Painters & Planters Wanted

Decorate a pot & plant a flower for your
Mother's Day

Cost is \$1 per pot.

Children 6 and younger can stop by
the DBG amphitheater between
10 A.M. & 3 P.M. Saturday, May 11,
at the Plant and Book Sale

Containers Division supplies fun accessories for patios, terraces

If you're looking for a perfect pot for the patio, container for the courtyard, fountain for the foyer or a treasure for the terrace, be sure to stop by the Containers Division at the plant sale. You'll find a fun collection of containers, plus a whole lot more: French gardens, herb topiaries, statuary and yard art. And once you've accessorized your garden, you can shop for gifts for Mother's Day.

Turn your patio into a water garden with starter pond kit

If you've always wanted a water garden, but never had space for a pond, stop by the Water Garden Division at the Plant and Book Sale and pick up a patio starter kit. New to the sale this year, the \$40 kit includes a water barrel, one miniature lily, a lily pot and soil. Just add water, and watch it grow!

'Gardens in a Basket' make xeriscape planning and shopping easy

The Xeriscape Division will again feature "Gardens in a Basket" at this year's Plant and Book Sale. The kits provide a planting plan and all the plants needed to start your own xeriscape garden.

The "Heavenly Hell Strip" kit is specially designed for that hard-to-handle area between the sidewalk and the street. "Shady Lady" provides something for people whose yards are "sun-challenged."

The division also will have a wide variety of individual plants that are featured in Denver Water Department's *Xeriscape Plant Guide* and are guaranteed to be happy in our semi-arid climate.

Anchor Center for Blind Children visits DBG Morrison Center

Preschooler Melissa Licon learned all about different textures of dried grasses this past fall by touching them with her fingers. This is one way she learns about the world of plants because Melissa is legally blind.

The 3-year-old makes a monthly visit to DBG's Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center with her classmates at Anchor Center for Blind Children. Their trips are part of DBG's horticultural therapy program. A staff horticultural therapist provides instruction and activities, and the center provides tools and a garden plot geared to the children's sizes and abilities.

In this natural environment many of the skills the children are taught in school are reinforced. They learn about touch through the soft and rough textures of various plants. They recently identified heart-shaped leaves for a Valentine's Day project. Temperature also is explored by feeling both wet and dry soil. According to Stephanie, her mother, many times Melissa goes home to re-enact what she has experienced in DBG's Sensory Garden.

"After we visit the garden she goes outside and fills baskets with dirt and grass experiencing the feel all over again. She also has an understanding of the cycles and seasons because of what she's learning at the garden," her mother says.

Many of the parents become involved in the gardening projects and attend the monthly programs with their children. Melissa's mother says she enjoys the exposure to horticulture just as much as her daughter does.

"We live in the city and don't have a garden, so it's been wonderful for Melissa to see and touch vegetables and flowers and make things such as bird feeders."

Horticultural therapy benefits are many for the children of Anchor Center. They can work outside in the fresh air, get their hands in the dirt and all the time be in safe, nurturing surroundings. Among the plants in the Morrison Center greenhouse the children are calm — they're involved in simple tasks that give them pleasure and a feeling of success that they can share with their own homes and families.

—Christine Kramer
Horticultural Therapy Assistant

From devastating storm to carefree gardening

The devastating snowstorm of September '95 will yield a bonus for area gardeners — free mulch.

The City and County of Denver has processed the fallen branches into a mountain of garden-ready mulch, and it's yours for the hauling — free, as much as you want.

You can pick it up Mondays through Saturdays during April, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the city nursery, 10450 Smith Rd. (the southwest corner of Havana Street and Smith Road). On Saturdays the nursery will have staff on hand to load it for you; during the week you'll have to load it yourself.

There's nothing better to control weeds around shrubs than a thick layer of rough-ground mulch. Anywhere you use it it slows soil moisture evaporation to help save on your water bill. It's great for pathways, high traffic areas and muddy driveways. And used as an under-layer, it saves decorative bark mulch or other decorative cover.

For more information call 964-2485.

Science for kids continues at DMNH

The second of six events focusing on "Designs in Science" produced by DBG and other major metropolitan educational institutions is Saturday, April 20, at Denver Museum of Natural History. "Super Science Days" includes a variety of hands-on activities for discoverers of all ages.

DBG will have a booth at this and other events, including Denver Zoo July 13 and Collage Children's Museum in Boulder Dec. 26 to 30. DBG will host its own event at the Fall Gardening Fair Saturday, Sept. 7. All activities are free with admission to each site.

Additional aspects of the National Science and Technology Week collaboration — which continues throughout the year — include teacher training on Wednesday, July 24, or Thursday, Aug. 1, and Family Science Days in the spring and fall. Educator packets with classroom activities are available in DBG's education office.

The program is partially funded by the National Science Foundation and is an extension of National Science and Technology Week. For more information about this program, call youth education specialist Geri Warfield, 370-8043.

Estill selected as February employee of the month

Receptionist Jo Estill is DBG's February employee of the month. Jo has taken the role of receptionist far beyond expectations. She regularly assists others in the Marketing and Special Events Department on special projects and provides coverage for the executive director's office whenever needed. Jo always extends the top-notch customer service our members, staff, volunteers and garden visitors have come to expect from DBG. From "What's blooming?" to "How much are classes?" — if Jo doesn't know the answer, she knows how to find it! Thanks, Jo, and congratulations!

Denver trash clean-up day April 20

Here's an opportunity to "join good people doing great things." Help the Keep Denver Beautiful organization and the Denver Public Works Department clean up Denver's trash during the 10th annual Glad Bag-a-thon Saturday, April 20.

The project is city-wide. Hundreds of volunteers are needed. Call 640-2900 for information.

Autumn Tour^{of} Philadelphia and the Brandywine Valley

September^{13 - 18,} 1996

Join fellow DBG members for an early fall visit to one of our country's most historic and beautiful areas.

Highlights

- A visit to Bartram's Garden, America's oldest living botanical garden, founded in 1731.
- Insider's view of Germantown, including Wyck (George Washington really did sleep here!) and Clivedon. Both houses and Wyck's extraordinary garden are survivors of the British occupation and subsequent Battle of Germantown.
- A morning exploring Fairmount Park, the world's largest municipal park, with a guided tour of its sculptures and stately homes.
- A tour of Chestnut Hill with the director of the Chestnut Hill Historical Society, a visit to a private garden and a tour of the 175-acre Morris Arboretum.
- A gala evening in an elegant private club.
- A private tour of Philadelphia's Independence National Historic District, with a lunch of 18th-century inspired cuisine at City Tavern, built in 1773.
- A day in Lancaster County with an Amish guide and a lunch of area specialties at an Amish farm.
- Two nights in the beautiful Brandywine Valley, including dinner at the renowned Chadds Ford Inn.
- Nemours, the Versailles-inspired house and gardens of Alfred I. du Pont.
- A private tour of magnificent Longwood Gardens, followed by dinner at the gardens and a dazzling light and fountain show.
- A whole morning at Winterthur and its unrivaled collection of American decorative arts and acre after glorious acre of newly restored naturalistic gardens.
- Chanticleer, a 30-acre Main Line estate pleasure garden.
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation, all admissions and baggage handling, four dinners, two breakfasts and five lunches. Fully escorted throughout by Barbara Baldwin and Julia Secor.
- Pre-departure party, and more!

Space is limited to 24 persons. Cost is \$855 for land arrangements based on double hotel occupancy. (Single supplement is \$276.) Cost of tour includes a \$50 voluntary tax-deductible donation to Denver Botanic Gardens. Airfare on United Airlines will be ticketed at the lowest available rate. A \$200 per person deposit, refundable up to July 12 less a \$25 administrative fee plus any unrecoverable costs, will secure space in the order received. Final payment is due July 12. For more information call Barbara Baldwin, 783-0010; Julia Secor, 762-9679; or Tammy Gates, 370-8064.

Name Member I.D.#

Roommate's name Member I.D.#

Address

City

State

ZIP

Home phone

Work Phone

Single room (\$276 supplement)

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Enclosed is my check for (\$200 per person) to Denver Botanic Gardens

☐ Charge registration to Visa / MasterCard

#

Exp.

Signature

Taylor dancers perform 'Children's Rainforest'

DBG and other organizations are supporting a reprise in April and May of David Taylor Dance Theatre's "Rainforest" and a shortened version called "A Children's Rainforest Odyssey." The full-length production will be presented at Denver Auditorium Theater April 26, 27 and 28.

The performances of excerpts and behind-the-scenes looks at the ballet's special effects are slated for April 20 at the Denver Zoo, April 26 at the Denver Auditorium Theater and May 22, 23 and 24 at the Museum of Outdoor Arts. Times are 1 p.m. at the zoo and 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. elsewhere. DBG will support the programs by sponsoring an educational booth that will relate the performances to plants of the rainforest.

DBG members receive a \$2 discount on tickets. Call David Taylor Dance Theatre, 797-6944.

Recycling, reducing and reusing at DBG

As part of DBG's commitment to environmental responsibility, a comprehensive recycling program has been created for the Gardens. Aluminum cans, glass and paper are now recycled, in a program that was implemented in early August.

As you may have noticed DBG has placed recycling bins throughout the grounds and buildings. Two decorative containers are at either side of the front gate and a third at the entrance to the education building. These wrought iron containers, designed to match the stained-glass pattern on the education center doors, were generously funded by the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild.

Nine cluster type recycling containers were obtained for the grounds at York Street and five for Chatfield Arboretum. These ClustersTM barrels, which look like wood, are made of 95 percent post-consumer recycled materials — dairy jugs, sawdust and scrap plastics.

The recycling program extends to every aspect of the Gardens' operation, from the offices to greenhouses and shops. DBG's offices recycle all paper: accounting paper, junk mail, telephone message slips and magazines. There are collection sites in each building for paper, cardboard, glass and aluminum.

The grounds department recently purchased a new shredder that allows it to reduce DBG's mountain of green waste to a molehill of compost. The machine is small enough that plants can be shredded directly into the display beds where it can be worked back into the soil. Diseased plants and weeds are not reused by this method. Soil tests will be performed on the beds as necessary to monitor nutrient levels. In addition to reducing landfill waste, this practice will reduce soil amendment fertilizer expenses and the dumpster bill.

From your membership office

New members to gather in Rock Alpine Garden

Denver Botanic Gardens invites each new member and a guest to attend a reception in the Rock Alpine Garden Tuesday, April 30, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres and music by The Concordia String Quartet. Expert rock gardeners will be on hand to guide you through the award-winning garden and its alpine house.

Space is limited. Reservations are required. Please call 370-8018 by April 26.

A behind-the-scenes adventure

DBG members at the Arbor Circle level and above are invited to an open house of the production greenhouse areas Wednesday, April 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. DBG greenhouse staff will be on hand in each greenhouse to answer questions. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please call 370-8018 by April 15.

Membership card reaps benefits at Plant and Book Sale

Be sure to bring your membership card to DBG's annual Plant and Book Sale to receive your 10% discount on all purchases and to get into the sale early. For your friends, memberships may be purchased at the York Street gate and the south gate, from the parking lot at 909 York St.

DBG members looking for specific kinds of books or plants should plan on shopping early for the best selection. Members who show their cards can enter at 8:30 a.m., instead of at 10 a.m. with the general public. Since there is always a big rush during the morning hours, you may want to take a leisurely approach to shopping: Have a cup of coffee and a roll or a light lunch while you're here — and enjoy the excitement. Check-out lines will be near the Gaylord Gate on the north and near the Botanic Gardens House on the south.

The sale's hundreds of volunteers will do their best to help you find everything you need and make your visit a rewarding experience.

Tributes

In memory of Jean Simpson Bradford

Mr. & Mrs. John C. Mitchell, II

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

In memory of Mary Laber Fahlberg

Wellshire Presbyterian Church

The Fahlberg Family

In memory of Thomas J. Gordon

Darlene & Harlan Holben

In memory of Gayle Houser

Ms. Syd Glick

In memory of Virginia R. Johnson

Mrs. Charla G. Cannon

In memory of Eugene Klenk, M.D.

Janet & David Robertson

In memory of Harold "Bud" May

Ms. Katherine Blanas

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Piffer

Mr. & Mrs. Robert White

In memory of Jane McCotter

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

In memory of Arthur & Helen Rippey

Ms. Blanche T. Cowperthwaite

In memory Mrs. Lucia Lee Van Gilder

Darlene & Harlan Holben

In memory of Connie Hubert Van Ordstrand

Ms. Irene Hubert

In memory of Alex H. Warner

Mrs. Alex Warner

For birthdays, anniversaries and memorials you can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

Preview Party's calypso theme to heat up the Gardens

This year's Plant and Book Sale Preview Party Thursday, May 9, offers you the earliest and most delightful shopping opportunities for the Plant and Book Sale. As you meander through the Gardens selecting your planting treasures, the sounds of Pan Jumbies' steel drums and the taste of Le Petit Gourmet's Caribbean buffet will take you to the tropics for an evening of calypso. A silent auction will include this year's fine art poster contest winner, the oil painting "Petals of Light" by Betty Stephan. Although the main book sale area will not be open, a small number of choice, collectable books will be for sale in the lobby. For more information on the Preview Party or to make your reservations, call 370-8064.



Inventory reduction sale!

25% to 75% off select merchandise

April 1 to May 31

Denver Botanic Gardens Gift Shop
1005 York St.

For gardeners of growing distinction

Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc.
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 205

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9757

Address correction requested

TIME VALUE • Apr. 1, 1996

April

April						
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28	29	30				

May						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Coming Up: Classes are in italics. An * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. For **course information** refer to DBG's winter/spring *Education Programs* or 303-370-8020. For **current events information**: 303-370-8187. For current plant and arts **society meeting information**: 303-370-8097.

April

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------|---|
| 1 | Free day at Denver Botanic Gardens | 16 | * <i>Romantic Roses</i> |
| 2 | <i>Lawns, Low-Water Grasses & Lawn Alternatives</i> | | <i>Dried Flower Centerpiece</i> |
| | Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting | | Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting |
| 3 | * <i>Perennials for Connoisseurs</i> | 17 | <i>Designing Your Herb Garden</i> |
| 5 | Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum | | American Rock Garden Society Denver Chapter meeting |
| | Colorado Native Plant Society meeting | | Behind-the-Scenes Tour for Arbor Circle level members & above |
| 6 | <i>From Cuts to Creations</i> | 18 | * <i>Impatient Gardener</i> |
| | North American Rock Garden Society Rocky Mountain Chapter Plant Sale | 20 | <i>Nature Journaling</i> |
| | Chatfield Arboretum drop-in tour | | <i>Spring Meadow Wreath</i> |
| 8 | Colorado Mycological Society meeting | | <i>Close-up Flower Photography</i> |
| 9 | * <i>Designing the Berm</i> | | Chatfield Arboretum drop-in tour |
| | Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting | 20, 21 | Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale |
| 10 | <i>Cultivating Enthusiasm in a Horticultural Therapy Program</i> | 21 | Mile High Daylily Society meeting |
| 11 | * <i>Intermediate-Advanced Bonsai: On the Rocks</i> | 22 | <i>Annuals for Connoisseurs</i> |
| | Denver Rose Society meeting | | Ultra Violet Club meeting |
| 13 | <i>Herb Topiaries</i> | 23 | Colorado Native Plant Society meeting |
| | <i>Native and Medicinal Plants</i> | | * <i>Advanced Botanical Illustration I & II</i> |
| | * <i>Papermaking with Iris Leaves</i> | 24 | Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Ken Druse, "The Collector's Garden" |
| | Denver Rose Society Symposium | | <i>Nocturnal Adventure</i> |
| | Chatfield Arboretum drop-in tour | 25 | African Violet Society of Denver meeting |
| 14 | * <i>Expanding Houseplant Horizons: A Focus on Epiphytes</i> | | Ikebana International meeting |
| | <i>Cooking with Judith Fine-Sarchielli: Glorious Garlic</i> | 27 | <i>Water Garden: Basic Pool Construction</i> |
| | Colorado Water Garden Society meeting | | Chatfield Arboretum drop-in tour |
| | | 30 | New Members Party: Wine & Cheese in the Rock Alpine Garden |

Great Gardens of Europe and their influence on Frederick Law Olmsted: lecture at DBG

Join C.M. Benson, architectural consultant and historian, as he explores the similarities and differences between the landscape architecture and design of Italian, French, German and English gardens, and their subsequent influence on Frederick Law Olmsted. Benson will speak in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St. Tuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m.

The designer of Central Park in Manhattan, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Franklin Park in Boston and Mount Royal in Montreal, Frederick Law Olmsted is considered the founder of landscape architecture in America.

Benson's talk will examine some of the greatest gardens and landscape architecture of Europe including Villa D'Este, Versailles, Vaux-Le-Vicomte, Herrenhausen, Chatsworth and Stowe. Then he will illuminate the subsequent influence of renaissance and baroque European garden and park philosophies on Frederick Law Olmsted's designs in America.

Benson teaches art and architectural history at the University of Colorado and has his own firm which consults to architectural firms on the Front Range. He is a member of the board of directors of the Olmsted Archive Project and Pavilion in Denver, a non-profit corporation recently formed to preserve the works of Frederick Law Olmsted and the Olmsted Brothers.

The goal of the archive is to capture and digitize the thousands of drawings, manuscripts and photographs at Olmsted's home in Brookline, Mass. The long-range plan is to develop and implement plans for an Olmsted Pavilion for state-of-the-art learning to be built in downtown Denver.

Tickets are \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. For more information or reservations, call DBG's education office, 370-8019 or 370-8020.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

May 1996



Let the planting begin!



This month's 47th annual Plant and Book Sale will bring thousands of Colorado gardeners together for a once-a-year shopping opportunity. More than 250,000 plants and 10,000 books will be showcased May 10 and 11, as the Gardens is

transformed into the largest volunteer-run plant sale in the country.

Maps will be available as you enter the sale to quickly guide you to the plants you're searching for, and knowledgeable volunteers will offer planting and growing advice. *Rocky Mountain News* once again is sponsoring the sale and will be distributing newspapers at its booth.

A record number of books were donated for this year's sale, with a concentration on cooking and gardening subjects. The bargain-priced books are located in the downstairs classrooms of the Education Building. All funds raised at the book sale are used exclusively to benefit DBG's Helen Fowler Library.

A special children's activity is planned in the DBG amphitheater Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children 6 years and younger can decorate a pot and plant a flower for Mother's Day. Cost is \$1 per pot.

Since parking around the Gardens is limited, you're encouraged to take advantage of free parking at the south end of the Target parking lot, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., in Glendale. Free double-decker buses will whisk you to and from the sale every 20 minutes. Plant valets will watch your large purchases until you return with your car, then help load your plants.

Downtown workers will get a preview of the sale Friday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Larimer Square's Noel Park, when Gardens staff and volunteers display a sampling of what will be available at the sale. Outdoor and indoor plants, as well as T-shirts and posters, will be offered to entice newcomers to the sale.

Admission to the sale is free. Members who show their cards, seniors 65 and older and physically challenged persons can enter the gates at 8:30 a.m. The sale is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For more information, call 370-8187.

Please see page 4 for more information.



Expert gardeners offer planning and planting advice at DBG's annual Plant and Book Sale.

Summer concerts and plays return to DBG amphitheater

Folk songs, acoustic guitar, classical music and theater will delight visitors in Denver Botanic Gardens' outdoor amphitheater this summer.

DBG's Summer Series begins June 21 as Carter Brey and Christopher O'Riley fill the amphitheater with classical cello and piano sounds.

June 28 Leo Kottke brings his 12-string guitar to the Gardens for an evening of acoustic sounds from Bach to his own jazzy compositions.

August brings back two DBG favorites—Tuck & Patti Aug. 9 and Wind Machine Aug. 16. The remaining two adult performances and the two children's concerts will be announced soon.

Compass Theatre Company returns to the Gardens with four evenings of al fresco theater to close the Summer Series. The theater troupe will perform two plays, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, alternating Aug. 29 and 30 and Sept. 4 and 5.

The annual Summer Series introduces new audiences to DBG's horticultural, educational and recreational programs — and provides a relaxing evening for DBG's friends.

Members soon will receive a brochure with complete information on all performances and how to buy tickets.

Inside this GTN:

School of illustration students will study with gold medal winner Crawford.

— page 3

Open house will introduce newcomers to DBG Guild.

— page 3

Train soon for important guide programs.

— page 6

Benefits are plentiful for members in May.

— page 7

Wildflowers

Wild Flowers a new corporate friend

A company that just opened its doors in October is one of DBG's newest valuable corporate friends. If a flowing waterfall, shaded arbor and wildflower meadow sound like an appealing setting for shopping, you might drop by Wild Flowers, 1201 Madison St., to check out this new supporter of the Gardens.

Wild Flowers features nature oriented essentials for home and patio living, garden books and tools, and house and patio plants.

Wild Flowers is offering a 10% discount to DBG members at the Botanist Club level and above.

Denver Botanic Gardens is grateful for the support of a very creative company, Wild Flowers.

From the executive director

For people along the Front Range, DBG's May Plant and Book Sale signals that spring planting season is here. May also marks another important week, the kickoff of "Celebrating Wildflowers" — National Wildflower Week.

National Wildflower Week events are planned nationwide for May 20 through 25. This annual event promotes the importance of conserving and managing native plants and plant habitats in America.

More than 630 million acres of public lands provide diverse habitats for America's wildflowers. You are encouraged to explore them: national parks, national forests and national wildlife refuges.

If you are interested in learning more about our native flora, plan to stop by the Gardens during National Wildflower Week. DBG, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service have produced a children's coloring book of Colorado wildflowers. Coloring books will be available in the lobby during this week. Some of the species in the coloring book can be found in various gardens at DBG. The lobby will feature wildflower displays from several of the agencies that manage public lands in Colorado.

To find out about events scheduled to take place on our public lands from April through August, the Wild Hot Line (1-800-354-4595) will be available again this year.

— Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Library increases hours for better service

Starting May 1, in conjunction with the Gardens' change to summer hours, Helen Fowler Library at Denver Botanic Gardens will be open Monday and Tuesday evenings until 8 p.m. This is in addition to the regular hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, including Saturday and Sunday.

Come visit. Come do your summertime plant research. Drop by after work, or visit after dinner.

Whatever your research quest — from where to buy a special plant or how to prune the lilac now that the blossoms are spent, to inspirational pictures for a new garden design, the library will serve all your gardening information needs. For more information call 370-8014.

DBG offers classes for wildflower month

Denver Botanic Gardens has a full roster of classes for May, National Wildflower Month. Field trips to see wildflowers include "Medicinal and Wild Foods Walk" at Chatfield Arboretum Sunday, May 5; "Wildflowers of the Plains" Sunday, May 19; "Bear Creek Nature Center," Colorado Springs, Wednesday, May 22; and "Ecology and Flora of North Table Mountain" on Saturday, May 25.

Other classes are just as varied. While not wildflowers, once established in your garden iris will grow with ease, so join the "Tour to Long's Iris Garden" in Boulder Friday, May 17. Or learn from one of the area's leading herb teachers about plants that are used for food and medicine while touring DBG's gardens in "Stalking Herbs at the Gardens" Saturday, May 18. Learn about butterfly and plant relationships and how to create a garden of flying flowers in your yard in "Flying Flowers: A Butterfly Garden" Thursday, May 23.

Contact the Gardens' registration office 370-8020 or 370-8019, for further information or to register. Complete descriptions of these programs are in the summer education class brochure.

DBG begins extended summer hours May 1

Beginning May 1 Denver Botanic Gardens adopts a summer schedule to allow visitors to enjoy the Gardens during selected evenings. Through Sept. 30 the Gardens will be open Saturdays through Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring their friends or families for a picnic dinner and enjoy a summer evening strolling the grounds. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays the Gardens will be open its regular time, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer admission to the Gardens is \$4 for adults; \$2 for people 65 and older, children 6 through 15 and students with IDs. Children 5 years and younger and DBG members are admitted free.

Green Thumb News May 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Editor: Larry Latta, 370-8033

Deadline for July issue: May 17

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Wildflower illustrator Carolyn Crawford to teach workshop

Noted Colorado botanical artist Carolyn Crawford will participate in an all-day workshop Thursday, June 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for prior students of the Denver Botanic Gardens School of Botanical Illustration and for other botanic illustrators.

A morning session with illustrator and DBG teacher Angela Overy will provide an opportunity to draw wildflowers at Overy's Douglas County home, review current projects and get tips on submitting work for DBG's November botanical illustration show.

In the afternoon Crawford will demonstrate drawing with pastels. Her exquisitely detailed works and her skill in depicting the natural habitats as well as the flowers is known through several international shows and publications. Her works are recipients of two gold medals from the Royal Horticultural Society of England and have been included in the triennial travelling exhibition of the Hunt Institute of Botanical Illustration.

Interested illustrators should contact the Gardens' registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019, to register. The all-day workshop is \$59 for Gardens members and \$72 for nonmembers.

Old garden rose show in Morrison Center

The Denver Rose Society and Denver Botanic Gardens sponsor an annual exhibition of the old garden roses, species and shrub roses during their best blooming season, which usually precedes that of modern roses by some weeks. This year's show is Saturday, June 1, in DBG's Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center.

Not only is everyone invited to the show, but they are invited to enter their blooming roses. There are none of the fussy requirements about stem length and classifications, or even proper names. This show is for color and fragrance. Vases and mentors will be provided. There will be day-long teaching and, possibly, sales of these rose varieties so notable for low maintenance, marvelous fragrance and historic sentimentality.

If you bring a spray of your alley-grown unknown variety to the show, there's a good chance you can get it identified by some of the experts present.

For more information call Bill Campbell, 832-7070, or John Starnes, 388-4731.

Guild hosts Herb Garden open house

If you would like to have a working relationship with DBG, the Denver Botanic Gardens Guild offers several kinds of hands-on gardening experiences for volunteers. May 15 Guild members extend an opportunity to meet other garden enthusiasts and learn about Guild projects at a prospective member open house in the Herb Garden gazebo. Refreshments will be served.

Guild members contribute thousands of volunteer hours during the summer maintaining DBG's Herb Garden and cutting and drying flowers and herbs. In the fall they make vinegar and create dried flower arrangements for the November Holiday Sale.

The Guild year begins in January with monthly meetings that include refreshments and educational presentations. In April and May members help prepare DBG's annual Plant and Book Sale.

If you are interested call Mari Lu McGinnis, president-elect, 778-0264.

Region's finest iris shown June 1

Visit the Gardens June 1 or 2 to see the region's finest iris, exhibited by members of the American Iris Society at their annual show. Many iris will be blooming in DBG's Rock Alpine Garden.

Although the society's show is scheduled to coincide with the peak blooming season of the popular tall bearded iris, the show will have sections for arils, dwarf and intermediate bearded iris, Siberian iris, spurias and other types.

Artistic designs, predominately of iris blossoms, will illustrate the show's "High Plains Awakening" theme in arrangements following such topics as "Pawnee National Grasslands," "Bent's Old Fort," "Platte River Valley" and "Cherry Creek."

The show is 12:30 to 4:45 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information call Randy Penn, 761-5170, or Rob Stetson, 733-5709. Please note that the annual iris sale is not included in the show, but will be July 21.

Chatfield drop-in tours

Have you never visited Chatfield Arboretum, but want to? Are you interested in Colorado history, plants, animals and ecosystems? You can visit the Arboretum the first Saturday of any month, April through October, at 10 a.m., and a naturalist guide will be available to lead you around the property and share information about the beauty and buildings. Mark your calendar now to join a drop-in tour (no advance registration required): May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7 and Oct. 5. They're free for DBG members.

PLANT & BOOK SALE

MAY 10 & 11, 1996



DBG shoppers to preview first 'Plant Select' plants

This year will mark the exciting inauguration of Plant Select, a cooperative program among DBG, Colorado State University and local nurseries to select and recommend superior plants deserving wider attention by nursery providers and gardeners. The following plants, 1997 selections, will be previewed at this year's Plant and Book Sale.

Salvia argentea was first cultivated at DBG in the '50s. It is a great foliage plant, with 1- to 2-foot leaves that are covered with white hairs.

Veronica liwanensis was first collected in Turkey in 1977 and grown at DBG a few years later. A lush, deep green carpet similar to thyme, it is even more compact and dense. It tolerates a wide range of garden conditions including no supplemental water. This mat is covered with deep blue, white-eyed blossoms for almost two months.

Agastache rupestris, introduced from the southwest, is an aromatic mint relative producing spires of bright orange tubes of flowers from August 'til frost. Irresistible to hummingbirds, it grows easily in any sunny, well-drained soil.

Daphne x burkwoodii 'Carol Mackie' is one of the showiest spring-flowering shrubs, well-known to visitor of the Rock Alpine Garden. This intensely sweet-scented shrub thrives in a variety of soils and sites.

Viburnum x rhytidophyllum 'Allegheny' is a lush evergreen shrub that grows in sun or shade. Clusters of white flowers in spring give way to scarlet berries for year-round interest.

Plant sale shoppers hoping to find an unusual selection of miniature alpine plants should stop by the Rock Garden Division. The division is working with more than 30 nurseries to provide an outstanding variety of plants.

Mitchell Hall houseplant haven

Don't forget to stop in John C. Mitchell II Hall during the Plant and Book Sale May 10 and 11. You'll find orchids, bromeliads, cacti, succulents and a wide array of common and hard-to-find houseplants to fit any nook in your house or greenhouse.

See "Gardening Good'n Easy"

You can learn more about how to keep on doing what you love — gardening — at the Gardening Good'n Easy booth at the '96 Plant and Book Sale. Volunteers trained in adaptive gardening concepts will be on hand to show books and tools that you can purchase at the sale or, all through the year, in DBG's Gift Shop.

The booth also will feature information on DBG's Horticultural Therapy Program and on constructing raised garden beds.

Birdhouse bargains at Plant Sale

Friends of finches, flickers and flycatchers should stop by the Containers Division at the Plant and Book Sale to shop the interesting array of birdhouses. From art deco designs to edible structures, you'll find an avian abode to fit any nook in your yard or house. Replicas of birdhouses that were showcased at the Gardens' BirdHaus Display last summer also will be available.

Donated plants needed for sale

As you begin your spring garden clean-up duties, don't forget that DBG's Plant Sale Garden Grown Division needs your plant divisions or other donations. You can leave your donations, marked with common or botanical names, inside the Gaylord Street gate, just south of 11th Avenue, by the "Garden Donations" sign through May 10. All donations will be sold in the Garden Grown section of the sale.

Agastache rupestris, above
Salvia argentea, left
Daphne x burkwoodii, center
Veronica liwanensis, right



Flowering meadows or lawns for your garden

Meadow — an upland area covered with grass and herbs and commonly surrounded by woodland.

Lawn — open space between woods.

“Wild lawns,” once so popular, are making a come back. There is a trend among gardeners to reduce the areas devoted to smooth green “meadows” of turfgrass and to plant exciting combinations of colorful annuals and perennials. Most of us actually use only a fraction of the turfgrass areas surrounding our homes. So why not convert the “back forty” to a low maintenance tapestry of color, forms and textures?

Flowering meadows — whether annual, perennial or a mixture of both — attract birds and butterflies in an urban setting by providing food and shelter. When installed and maintained properly, flowering lawns can be less maintenance over the growing season than turfgrass lawns (they will definitely reduce the time you spend walking behind a lawn mower).

With careful plant selection flowering meadows can provide fresh and dried cut flowers from April to October. Unlike turfgrass, flowering meadows can be changed easily each season with the addition of a few new plants, and the appearance of each planting changes as the growing season progresses. As a new species becomes dominant the meadow takes on the character of that plant.

Designing and planting a meadow

Begin planning next year’s garden this season. Look through garden catalogs, visit wild areas and observe the plantings at DBG and in your neighborhood to get ideas.

Get to know the growing conditions of your proposed meadow space, and select plants that will thrive in those conditions. If the area is infested with perennial weeds such as bindweed and thistle you should apply an appropriate herbicide in early fall and seriously consider planting or seeding an annual flowering meadow each spring for a year or two until you are positive the perennial weeds are gone.

Select a combination of plants that have the same requirements for light, moisture, soil texture and nutrients. Eight to 10 different plants is a reasonable number for the first year, adding more in successive seasons if desired.

Consider combining annuals and perennials, but be aware that many plants self-sow which can change the look of your meadow over the years. Some judicious thinning is recommended to maintain an attractive appearance throughout the growing season. Keep bunch grasses in mind as lawn unifiers and fillers.

Amending the soil

As with any new garden this first step is the most important: amending the soil. Prepare the area thoroughly keeping in mind the light, nutrient and soil texture preferences of the plants you intend to grow.

1. It is often advisable to clear the area of existing turfgrass using a herbicide.
2. Spade the soil as deeply as possible and spread 2 inches of organic matter over the area.
3. Rototill and rake smooth. If tree roots prohibit rototilling, plan to do steps one and two in the fall of the year, spreading the organic matter before you spade.

Plants or seeds?

Determine whether you will direct sow the planting or plant transplants.

Plants

While more labor intensive to begin with, planting individual plants ensures even distribution of color and form. For areas free of perennial weeds we recommend planting a mix of individual plants 10 to 12 inches apart throughout the area so the planting fills in quickly. Bare spaces invite weeds.

Seeds

Seeding is faster but often the results are spotty, no matter how well the seed was mixed. Many seeds require special stratification periods and techniques. It is helpful to mix the seed with up to three times its volume of fine sand before you broadcast it over the planting area.

Rake the area lightly after broadcasting and keep it evenly moist (not always easy in this climate) until the seeds germinate, or top dress the area with one-half inch of top soil or fine finished compost and keep it moist until the seedlings emerge. A short lived cover crop that germinates quickly, such as annual rye grass, can be added to the mix to provide protection for the other seedlings.

Above all, experiment! Gardens are dynamic.

— Joann Narverud
Grounds Operations Supervisor

March employee of the month

Shofu-en, DBG’s Japanese garden, is a favorite retreat for staff and members alike. So there was some concern when Kai Kawahara retired in 1993. How could anyone possibly lavish as much love and skill on the garden as its first gardener?

Japanese garden specialist Bert Rhodes, who joined the DBG staff in 1995, has proven more than equal to the job. He is an exceptional garden artist. Since his arrival he has groomed every twig and pebble in the garden. His quiet managerial skills are evident in the recent rejuvenation of the pond, repair of the fences and tea house and the replacement of goldfish with Koi.

Bert is a gentleman, friendly to strangers and companionable with fellow workers. His colleagues were honored to tap him for employee of the month of March.

Sign up for sensory, preschooler guides

Share the sights, smells, sounds and textures of the Gardens as a Sensory or Preschooler Tour Guide this summer! New volunteers are trained not only in guiding techniques but in the plants and features of DBG's Sensory Garden.

In 1995 more than 700 preschoolers and visitors from nursing homes and rehabilitation and therapy programs enjoyed the garden at the Morrison Horticultural Demonstration Center, just across the street from the main entrance to York Street.

Training for Sensory Guides takes place May 17, 31, June 7 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Preschooler Tour Guide training will occur May 29, June 5 and 7 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Cost for either course is \$10. To register, please call the education office, 370-8020 (TDD 370-8032).

'Rainforest Odyssey' heats up spring

DBG will support a children's exploration of the mysteries and excitement of the tropics through David Taylor Dance Theatre productions at the Museum of Outdoor Arts in May. "A Children's Rainforest Odyssey," a mini performance of excerpts from Taylor's full-length "Rainforest" production includes a behind-the-scenes look at the special effects. Performances are slated for 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. May 22, 23 and 24. DBG and other organizations will support both programs by sponsoring an educational booth related to economic plants of the rainforest.

This show is spellbinding for kids and adults. For ticket information, please contact the David Taylor Dance Theatre, 797-6944.

Book Review

Xeriscape Plant Guide. Denver Water. Fulcrum Publishing \$29.95

This newest addition to the growing list of books about xeriscape gardening presents much of what I find useful in a plant guide. I feel the photos of plants in each season are a real plus. Most books present photos of plants only at their peak bloom, ignoring the other 80 percent of the year.

After an introduction by Rob Proctor, the book cuts to the chase, giving information about a broad variety of drought tolerant plants in a fairly clear and concise format. The headings of "Best Features," "Companion Plants" and "Disadvantages" contain many useful bits of information.

There are some ambiguous categories, however, in which more information is necessary. "Life Span" isn't clearly defined, nor is "Water Requirements." I'd like to see more information under the "Culture" heading, particularly pruning requirements. Many of the plants in this book are not included in traditional pruning literature, and this would have been a perfect opportunity.

Visually, this book is very pleasing. The artwork complements the photos well. The layout is easy to follow and the plant groupings under headings make it a fairly quick task to look up a particular plant. The index would be more useful to a wider range of people if it were keyed to common names as well as scientific ones.

Xeriscape gardeners can benefit from this newest volume, whatever their experience level. It is available in DBG's Helen Fowler Library and Gift Shop. I recommend browsing through it.

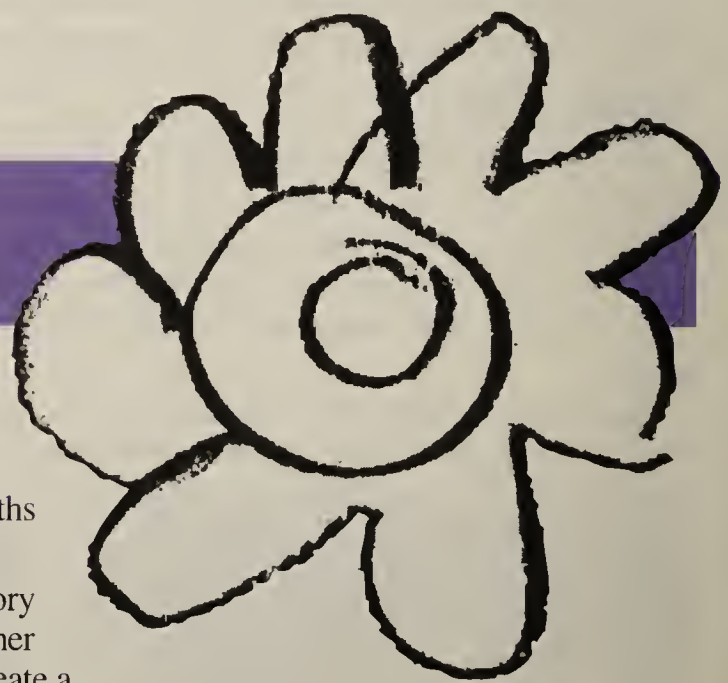
— Kathy Kircher, DBG Horticultural Supervisor

Summertime Kids activities for all ages

DBG's Summertime Kids program begins Saturday, May 4, with an exploration of Chatfield Arboretum for students in grades 4 to 6. "Tracks and Trails," from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., will have nature sleuths searching the trails for animal tracks and other clues.

Preschoolers 3 or 4 years old can celebrate Migratory Bird Week and Mother's Day with their mom or another adult during "For the Birds" on Saturday, May 11. Create a bird feeder together and enjoy snacks that our feathered friends might enjoy (don't worry — no worms are involved!) from 10 a.m. to noon.

Summertime Kids courses resume the week of June 10 for ages 3 to 11. For registration information, please call 370-8020 (TDD 370-8032).



From your membership office

Behind-the-Scenes Tour June 5

DBG members at the Arbor Circle level and above are invited to an open house of the production greenhouse areas Wednesday, June 5, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. DBG greenhouse staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Light refreshments will be available. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please call 370-8018 to make your reservation.

Free bonus for joining during sale weekend, Mother's Day

All new members — those who were not members anytime during 1996 — will be offered the choice of a 1993 Plant and Book Sale poster or a handy card-key case (free, as long as supplies last) if they join the Gardens during the Plant and Book Sale or on Mother's Day, May 12.

Mom gets special treatment

All gift memberships for Mom received between April 20 and Mother's Day will receive a free packet of dryable "everlasting" plant seeds. She will think of you all through the year when she looks at her special bouquets!

Members benefit at sale

Remember, members can enter the Plant and Book sale starting at 8:30 a.m. each sale day and will receive a 10-percent discount by showing their current membership card at the check out table. Come, browse, buy some really "cool stuff," and have fun!

Summer free days at DBG, Chatfield

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum will offer free admission to Colorado residents several days this summer, thanks to funds from the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.

DBG's free days are the first Monday of May, June, July, August, September and October. Chatfield Arboretum offers free admission the first Friday of every month. Free days at Denver's major cultural institutions this month are:

- Chatfield Arboretum, Friday, May 3
- Denver Museum of Natural History, Friday, May 3
- Denver Botanic Gardens, Monday, May 6
- Denver Art Museum, every Saturday.

A complete schedule of 1996 free days is available at the information desk in DBG's lobby court.

Special thanks to DBG supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons members and Corporate members who began or renewed their membership during the first quarter of 1996:

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Daley
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In memory of Jackie Bernstein

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In memory of Charles Wilkins

Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Schone

In memory of Lucius Woods

Ms. Florence Best

Birthdays...anniversaries...memorials...You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

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TIME VALUE • May 1, 1996

May

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Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
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Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	

Coming Up: Classes are in italics. An * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session. For **course information** refer to DBG's summer *Education Programs* or 303-370-8020. For **current events information:** 303-370-8187. For current plant and arts **society meeting information:** 303-370-8097.

May

3	Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum	18	Rocky Mountain African Violet Society meeting
4	Drop-In Tour at Chatfield Arboretum		<i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i>
	<i>Tracks and Trails</i> at Chatfield Arboretum		<i>Blood on the Prairie</i> at South Suburban Park
5	Dawn Chorus Migratory Bird Week Celebration at Chatfield Arboretum		<i>Stalking Herbs at the Gardens</i>
	<i>Medicinal Foods Walk</i> at Chatfield Arboretum	19	<i>Pots with Panache</i>
6	Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens		<i>Japanese Tea Ceremony</i>
	Colorado Mycological Society meeting		<i>Spring Pasta Panache</i>
7	Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting	20	<i>Wildflowers of the Plains</i>
8	<i>No-Bend Gardening in Raised Beds</i>	21	<i>Container Herb Gardening</i>
9	DBG Plant & Book Sale Preview Party		* <i>The Perennial Advantage</i>
10, 11	DBG Plant & Book Sale		Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
11	Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Center meeting	22	<i>Bear Creek Nature Center, Colorado Springs</i>
	<i>For the Birds</i>		* <i>Intermediate Bonsai: A Forest Scene</i>
14	Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting	23	Herb Society of America meeting
15	DBG Guild Herb Garden Open House		<i>A Decorative Birdhouse</i>
	North American Rock Garden Society Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting		<i>Flying Flowers: A Butterfly Garden</i>
16	African Violet Society of Denver meeting	25	Gardeners of America meeting
17	<i>Mushroom Discovery</i> at Chatfield Arboretum		Breakfast & Early Tour — Botanist level members & above
	<i>Tour to Long's Iris Garden</i>		<i>Ecology and Flora of North Table Mountain</i>
	* <i>Sensory Tour Guide Training</i>	27	Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
18, 19	Front Range Antique Power Show at Chatfield Arboretum	28	Ultra Violet Club meeting
			<i>Terrific Tomatoes and their friends</i>
		29	* <i>Gardening with an Altitude</i>
			* <i>Preschooler Tour Guide Training</i>

Dawn Chorus Day planned at Chatfield

May 5, as on any other day, birds all over the world will begin to sing as the sun hits the horizon. Yet, this particular Sunday is special. It has been recognized as International Dawn Chorus Day. Amateur and experienced birders are encouraged to flock together to share the heralding of a beautiful spring day.

International Dawn Chorus Day was founded 13 years ago in England and now is celebrated in many countries all over the world. It's a day to slow down and listen to birds.

You can choose to listen from your home, or better, join an organized group at a nature center or park. This year, just as last, Chatfield Arboretum will support Dawn Chorus, and naturalists and bird enthusiasts will be on site to help decipher songs and conduct a short hike of the property. Please arrive at 5:45 a.m. to be ready for quiet listening at 6.

Afterward, Dawn Chorus participants are invited to Kassler Water Treatment Plant, just down the road from the Arboretum, for a no-egg breakfast and to report their sightings.

The Colorado Urban Wildlife Partnership will be collecting the information from all organized chorus groups and anyone else who is willing to share their discoveries. Last year more than 35 species were seen and heard at the Arboretum. One of those sightings and audible sounds included a great horned owl.

Saturday, May 11, wind up Migratory Bird Week by creating a bird feeder with your preschooler and enjoy snacks that our feathered friends might enjoy (don't worry — no worms involved!) from 10 a.m. to noon at the Arboretum. Although there is no charge for International Dawn Chorus day, please register for both the event and the kids class (\$15 members, \$18 nonmembers) by calling 370-8019.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

June 1996



Eight concerts in DBG's 1996 amphitheater series

Denver Botanic Gardens' Summer Series concert line-up will bring music and fun lovers to Denver's favorite outdoor amphitheater once again for harmonious sounds and beautiful gardens in 1996.

Carter Brey and Christopher O'Riley kick off the season Friday, June 21. The cellist and pianist are two of today's most exciting American classical artists. A duo performance by these long-time musical friends is a rare treat. Both have performed at DBG and are planning a very special program for their favorite outdoor amphitheater.

Leo Kottke brings his amazing guitar playing to the Gardens Friday, June 28. There is more harmony and rhythm in his music than is found in traditional folk, and his frequent visits to jazz and classical neighborhoods leave audiences wondering where he will take them next. Kottke's talents go beyond playing the guitar — he has a knack for making his audience laugh. His songs nearly always have a punch line, though it may take a day or two to sink in.

Families can enjoy the Colorado Symphony Orchestra's "Up Close and Musical" performance Friday, July 12. Children will help explain the music and involve the audience, as a dozen string players from the symphony play classical and modern orchestra works.

Friday, July 26, the Milt Jackson Quartet performs jazz with unparalleled elegance and finesse. Jackson's legendary sounds are remembered by long-time DBG concert-goers from performances by his former band, The Modern Jazz Quartet, which he co-founded in 1952.

Michael and Sharon Doucet and Friends entertain kids and their families Wednesday, Aug. 7, for a Louisiana evening of music and fun. Don't forget your dancing shoes for this one!

Friday, Aug. 9, Tuck & Patti return to DBG for another sure-to-sell-out show. Patti's gorgeous vocals interweave with Tuck's original guitar lines to create an incredible blend of folk, pop and jazz.

Wind Machine comes back to its favorite amphitheater Friday, Aug. 16. Whether performing their own hauntingly beautiful guitar arrangements of Bach or delivering original compositions, the band members always are inventive, original and tuneful. They've created a special program just for DBG audiences this year.



Carter Brey and Christopher O'Riley, piano-cello duo, will lead off the 1996 Summer Series June 21.

Leon Redbone brings the concert series to a dramatic finish Thursday, Aug. 22. His amazing jazz music with his dry wit and subtle humor have made him a modern classic.

All adult concerts begin at 7:15 p.m. The family shows July 12 and Aug. 7 begin at 7 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Concert-goers are invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy before or during the show, or pre-order a special box dinner from Pour La France, DBG's 1996 summer caterer.

You should plan to park in DBG's satellite parking lot at the Glendale Target store, 4301 E. Virginia Ave., and ride the Gardens' free shuttle buses to and from the concerts. Parking is very limited around the Gardens, and most street parking is off-limits. Be sure to mind all "no parking" signs to avoid a costly ticket. All bus riders will receive a free DBG admission pass to use at a later date. Buses make frequent trips to and from the Gardens before and after the concert.

The DBG Summer Series is presented again this year by *The Denver Post*. It is sponsored by KVOD-FM (92.5) and produced by Jim Sprinkle Productions. For more information call 370-8187.

Green Thumb News June 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, edited by Larry Latta, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Deadline for Aug. issue: June 21

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Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

One of the greatest satisfactions of gardening is the opportunity to work alone — just you, the plants and the soil. As many gardeners have observed, it is soothing therapy for the bruises from a busy world.

But gardeners also band together. For nearly every type of plant, a society has been formed by like-minded hobbyists joining together to share their successes, their problems and their plants.

Denver Botanic Gardens is the regular meeting place for more than a dozen groups of these plant aficionados and is the site of their annual or semi-annual shows and plant sales. These events draw tens of thousands of visitors to enjoy the plants exhibited by the societies' members and to see our gardens.

We are fortunate to have a close relationship with these clubs, most going back for decades. Not only do the societies offer our members and visitors an opportunity to see a great variety of plants and flowers, they are a testimony to DBG's reputation as the center of Rocky Mountain horticulture — amateur as well as professional. Some members of these groups join our volunteer corps and contribute hours of work and, often, plants to our collections. Plant societies are, indeed, very valuable friends of Denver Botanic Gardens.

As part of our ongoing efforts to nurture our relationship with the societies, DBG's director of horticulture and plant society liaison Jim Henrich regularly asks for their input to DBG policy relating to them. June 6 he has invited their representatives and other DBG staff members to discuss how we can serve them better to our mutual benefit.

If you are a member of one of the societies that meets at the Gardens, please encourage your representative to attend this discussion. If you are not, you should consider joining one of them. You will receive much satisfaction from your association — and find yet another way you can support your Denver Botanic Gardens.

—Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Learn about fish & ponds at koi show

The Rocky Mountain Koi Club will host its annual Koi Show and Summer Seminar Series at the Gardens Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23. DBG members can learn about fish and backyard ponds by looking over the judges' shoulders during the show or by attending any of five lectures each day.

Judging of the fish takes place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. The 45-minute seminar talks begin on the hour Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. and on the half-hour Sunday from 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.

Judges and seminar leaders are Doug Dahl of Tusin, Calif., and Leon Lopez of Sequim, Wash. Dahl is an expert on pond design and fish breeding; Lopez will speak on over-wintering fish in a cold climate and on general aspects of owning a pond and fish.

For more information call Del Pakiser, 452-7394.

Old roses perfume DBG's Morrison Center

The Denver Rose Society and Denver Botanic Gardens will present an exhibition of old garden roses, species roses and shrub roses at DBG's Morrison Center Saturday, June 1.

Rose lovers are encouraged not only to attend but to enter roses of their own in the show. Vases will be available, and experts will be on hand to help identify the blossoms. The show is free of admission and entry fees.

For information call Bill Campbell, 832-7070, or John Starnes, 388-4731.

DBG in Vail June 22 for 'EarthFest'

Denver Botanic Gardens will participate in Vail Alpine Gardens' EarthFest in Ford Park Saturday, June 22.

The festival is part of Vail's month-long Festival of Flowers. It will feature speakers on natural resources and alpine ecology, an annual tree planting event, crafts, children's games and music. DBG's booth will focus on the importance of composting and environmentally friendly gardening, and children can make "tree cookie" necklaces to remember the importance of conserving the environment.

For more information on EarthFest, call Tom Gaylord, 970-479-2279.

calendar 96 events



Denver Botanic Gardens
1005 York Street, Denver, CO 80206
303.331.4000 TDD 370.8032

Chatfield Arboretum
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton, CO 80123
303.973.3705

calendar 96 events



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Chatfield Arboretum
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303.973.3705

July

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

07 July

- 1 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 1 - 14 BirdHaus Exhibit
- 5 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 10 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
- 12 Summer Series Concert: *Colorado Symphony Orchestra, "Up Close and Musical" — for families!*
- 12-14 Denver Black Arts Festival in City Park
- 13 Herb Fair
- Designs in Science at Denver Zoo
- 16 "A Garden of Harmony": Members Picnic
- 20 Annual Butterfly Census at Chatfield Arboretum
- Prairie Picnic at Chatfield Arboretum
- 20-28 Colorado Watercolor Society Show
- 21 American Iris Society Region 20 Iris Sale
- 24 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
- 26 Summer Series Concert: *Milt Jackson Quartet*



August

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08 August

- 1-11 "Glass at the Gardens"
- 2 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 3 Japanese Tea Ceremonies & Stories — *for members & their families*
- 5 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 7 Summer Series Concert:
Michael and Sharon Doucet and Friends — for families!
- 9 Summer Series Concert: *Tuck & Patti*
- 10 Mile High Daylily Society Show & Sale
- 14 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
- 16 Summer Series Concert: *Wind Machine*
- 17 Breakfast & Early Tour — *Botanist level members & above*
- "Garden Safari": Denver Zoo's 100th Birthday Celebration
- 18 Colorado Mycological Society Mushroom Fair
- 22 Summer Series Concert: *Leon Redbone*
- 24 & 25 Summer Festival (*to be determined*)
- 28 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
- 29 Compass Theatre Company: *Cyrano de Bergerac*
- 30 Compass Theatre Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*



September

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09

Sept^ember

- 2 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 3 New Members Party: Water Garden Tour
- 4 Compass Theatre Company: *Cyrano de Bergerac*
- 5 Compass Theatre Company: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 6 *Fete des Fleurs*
Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Gardeners of America Plant & Produce Sale
Designs in Science at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 7 & 8 Fall Gardening Fair
Members Plant Dividend Day
Kidding Around: "Harvest Figures"
- 14 & 15 3Gs Gesneriad Show & Sale
- 18 Behind-the-Scenes Tour — *Arbor Circle level members & above*
- 25 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Steve Bender, "Passalong Plants"



October

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10

Oct^eber

- 3-5 Center for Plant Conservation Annual Meeting
- 4 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 12 Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum
Kidding Around: "Colorful Corn" at Chatfield Arboretum
- 12 & 13 Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale
- 19 Rocky Mountain African Violet Council Fall Sale
- 23 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture: Holly Schimizu,
"Environmental Gardening & Design"
- 27 "Goblins in the Gardens" — *for members*



November

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11

Nov^ember

- 1 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 1-3 Botanical Illustration Exhibit
- 6 Tempel Wildflower Lecture
- 15 & 16 DBG Holiday Sale



December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30	31				

12

Dec^ember

- 4 & 5 Herald the Season — *for members only*
- 6 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Blossoms of Light opening ceremonies
Blossoms of Light Tremendous Kickoff
at Chatfield Arboretum
Teddy Bear Teas
- 7-31 Blossoms of Light Holiday Festival
- 10 Holiday Concert (*tentative*)
- 11 Holiday Concert (*tentative*)
- 12 Holiday Concert (*tentative*)
Teddy Bear Teas
- 18 Holiday Concert (*tentative*)
- 19 Compass Theatre Company (*tentative*)
- 26 Compass Theatre Company (*tentative*)
- 26-30 Designs in Science at Collage Children's Museum



Gardens open evenings for 'Sunset Strolls'

Several nights this summer you are invited to stroll the York Street gardens after regular public hours, listen to soft music, watch artists at work and enjoy the Gardens in the beautiful late-afternoon light.

As you stroll through the Gardens' 23 acres, you will hear local musicians: a harpist in the Home Demonstration Garden, a string quartet near the amphitheater, a koto player in the Japanese Garden or a flute and harp duo near the water garden gazebo.

You also can look over the shoulders of artists painting their impressions of the Gardens. You're invited to bring a picnic dinner, family and friends. Iced cappuccino and nightly specialty food items will be available for modest prices.

Strolls are Wednesdays, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, and Aug. 14 and 28, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Admission for members is \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors 65 and older and youths 6 to 15. Nonmember fee is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and youths. Children 5 years and younger are admitted free. Pre-registration is not necessary; you can pay at the front gate the evening of the stroll. For more information, please call 370-8187.

Annual bonsai exhibit set for Father's Day

The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society will mount its Father's Day weekend show at the Gardens June 15 and 16.

Society members will display trained plants, some hundreds of years old, and sell starter plants for new converts to the ancient art of bonsai. Plants in the show will be judged for horticultural craftsmanship.

This annual DBG show is the largest between the East and West coasts, and members of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society own some of the finest plants in the nation. It is a horticultural highlight of the summer.

For information call president Allen Hills, 423-3783, or program chairman Joan Bloom, 443-8428.

Iris show a rainbow of color June 1 & 2

Visit the Gardens June 1 or 2 to see the rainbow of color of the region's finest iris, exhibited by members of the American Iris Society.

The society's show is scheduled to coincide with the peak blooming season of the popular tall bearded iris, but the show will have sections for other types as well.

Artistic designs, predominately of iris blossoms, will illustrate the show's "High Plains Awakening" theme.

The show is 12:30 to 4:45 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information call Randy Penn, 761-5170, or Rob Stetson, 733-5709. Please note that the annual iris sale is not included in the show, but will be July 21.

'Midsummer Night's Dream' & 'Cyrano' at DBG

Compass Theatre Company brings its award-winning troupe of classical actors back to Denver Botanic Gardens this summer for four delightful evenings of al fresco theater.

The troupe will present Edmond Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac" Thursday, Aug. 29, and Wednesday, Sept. 4. This classic was given the accolade "best classical production in Denver" by *Rocky Mountain News* reviewer Jackie Campbell after its 1993 premier.

William Shakespeare's most delightful, pastoral and magical comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," will take the stage Friday, Aug. 30, and Thursday, Sept. 5, a return to the Gardens by popular demand.

Plays begin at 7:15 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$11 for members, \$13 for nonmembers. To order tickets or for more information call 370-8187 or 777-3836.



Christopher Selbie will appear in two performances of Compass Theatre Company's "Cyrano de Bergerac" in August and September.

Award-winning DBG water plant displays are site of evaluations of America's newest hybrids

Among the beautiful plants in DBG's award-winning water displays are waterlilies of the future, new hybrids — some unnamed yet — under evaluation for possible introduction to home gardeners. The waterlily trials were established and are maintained by the Colorado Water Garden Society, The Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens and DBG staff members. The program was begun with the third International Water Lily Society Convention held in Denver in 1987.

In DBG's public displays members and visitors can see new water lilies from world acclaimed hybridizers Kenneth Landon, Perry D. Slocum and Dr. Kirk Strawn. They have had the opportunity also to assist in the flowers' evaluation.

The prolific hardy water lily *Nymphaea* 'Texas Dawn', now grown the world over, was the first to come out of the program.

The trials have evolved and matured over the years. The most rigorous evaluation was a two-year study (1991-1992) of 20 hardy water lilies. It was summarized in an article by DBG's water garden curator Joe Tomocik, "The Denver 20, A Two-Year Evaluation of Hardy Water Lilies."

From that group came some outstanding water lilies: 'Peery's Baby Red', 'Mayla', 'Mary' and 'Joey Tomocik.' This latter plant, named for Tomocik's daughter, has been a most pleasant surprise. It was possibly the most outstanding hardy water lily in DBG's display last year, flowering heavily with bright yellow blooms throughout the summer. Reports from around the U.S. and elsewhere support its ranking by water gardening experts as one of the finest water lilies available.

A recent introduction of more than local interest is the world's first peach-colored hardy water lily, 'Colorado'. And available soon will be a fitting companion, a lovely buff-colored double-flowered lily, 'Denver'. They both were hybridized by Strawn.

New plants that may find their way into the 1996 trials are 'Barbara Dobbins' and exciting hybrids from Landon, Michael Duff and Reg and Clair Henley. DBG also hopes to display Slocum's newest gems 'Lily Pons' and 'Mt. Shasta'.

— Joe Tomocik, DBG Horticulturist

[DBG's water lily trials are reported in the newly published Water Gardening by Tomocik and Leslie Garisto. The highly recommended book, in The American Garden Guides series, is available in DBG's Gift Shop and Helen Fowler Library.]

— Ed.]

Water, bog plants for sale at DBG June 9

The Colorado Water Garden Society will hold its annual sale of water plants at DBG Sunday, June 9, from 9 a.m. until the plants are sold out. The society has brought in special waterlilies, lotus plants and unusual aquatic and bog plants for the sale.

The sale is included in standard DBG admission fees. It will take place in the sunken garden outside Classroom B. For more information call 671-7964.

Plants from the pages of DBG Fowler Library

The Lotus has a 5,000-year history of reverence by many cultures. This beautiful flower grows in the life-giving Nile. In Egypt is a symbol of fertility. It also symbolizes resurrection because of the habit of its flowers: They close at night, sink below the surface of the water, then rise to open again the following morning.

In the Hindu religion, Brahma, the pristine embodiment of the universal spirit, was born inside the sacred lotus blossom. After his birth Buddha took seven strides on lotus blossoms. The most sacred Buddhist prayer "Om Mani Padme Hum" is translated as "O Jewel in the lotus!"

We, too, can appreciate this symbol of purity as it rises from the water to perfume the air and make Denver Botanic Gardens' water gardens more beautiful.

[From Myths and Traditions in India by Gupta and Plant; Folklore and Symbolism of Flowers, Plants and Trees by Lehner, Ernst and Johanna; and Religious & Useful Plants of Nepal & India by Majupuria and Chandra. — Susan Eubank, DBG senior librarian]

Morrison students plant for Parks & Rec.

The Morrison Center greenhouse grows a little greener because of three dedicated Aurora Central High School students with developmental disabilities. Twice a week they work under the direction of horticultural therapy specialist Janet Laminack learning to wash pots, plant and water.

Recently, students Mandy, Chanh and Malcolm propagated 300 houseplants from cuttings in the greenhouse to give to the Denver Parks and Recreation After-School Program. Students in the program will in turn transplant the cuttings into decorated clay pots and give them as gifts. According to Bill Culkin, with the after-school program, the project was a huge success.

DBG sets teacher in-service training

Classroom teachers for grades K-12 are encouraged to take advantage of the expertise of area professionals during two teacher training programs this month. *Plants as Educational Tools* June 19 and 20 will help you learn how plants can effectively break down barriers and integrate students with diverse abilities and backgrounds.

June 20 to 28, explore wetland areas, talk to wetlands experts and participate in classroom activities as you learn about the functions of these diverse sites during the *Wetlands Institute for Teachers*. Both courses include graduate recertification credit. For more information, contact DBG's youth education specialist, 370-8043; to register for either course contact Colorado School of Mines, 273-3303.

'Kidding Around' flies for BirdHaus display

Families with children are invited to join in the first "Kidding Around" program of the year, creating flighty masterpieces and make-believe birds. "Fanciful Flyers" on June 29 will take place in DBG's Lobby Court from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your imagination; materials will be provided. Would your imaginary bird live in any of the birdhouses in the BirdHaus display or in some other exotic location such as your lunch box or pocket?

All Kidding Around programs are included with admission. Other Kidding Around events will be Sept. 7 and 8, Oct. 12 (at Chatfield Arboretum) and Dec. 11, 18 and 26. Check *Green Thumb News* for details, or call the youth education specialist, 370-8043.

Herb Fair has lectures, displays for families

Denver Botanic Gardens will hold its second annual Herb Fair Saturday, July 13. Visitors will be addressed by several nationally known speakers and attend an outdoor herbal fair of displays, demonstrations and activities for people of all ages.

Among the Saturday speakers are co-authors Rob Proctor and David Macke talking about their new book, *Herbs in the Landscape*. Proctor writes a column for *The Herb Companion* magazine and is a frequent lecturer on plants. He is one of the designers of DBG's new O'Fallon Perennial Walk and is co-author of the weekly "Front Range Gardeners" column in *The Denver Post*.

Also appearing is cookbook author Carolyn Dille, who will lecture and give a cooking demonstration. She is co-author of *Herbs in the Kitchen* with last year's guest speaker Susan Belsinger. Dille has served as manager and menu-planner for Cafe Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif., and has also co-authored *The Greens Book* and *The Garlic Book*.

Vendors will sell plants, herbal crafts and books. Booths and demonstrations will feature topics ranging from the culinary to craft uses of herbs, and guides will conduct tours of the DBG Herb Garden. Special children's activities are scheduled. More information will be included in the July issue of *Green Thumb News*.

'Fete' takes new night — Friday, Sept. 6

Fete des Fleurs, Denver Botanic Gardens' gala benefit event, will be held Friday, Sept. 6. Chairwoman Katherine Whitcomb says the Fete committee chose to move the black-tie event to a Friday evening so patrons can relax and enjoy the party — and not worry about work or a meeting the morning after.

The Fete decoration and menu committees are promising a very French evening this year. A social hour amid the late summer blooms, a candle lit dinner in an open tent and dancing to the sounds of the Jerry Barnett Band will combine to make this event one of Denver's most elegant.

The gala raises funds to support DBG's educational programming. Tickets are \$175 per person (\$350/couple) and patron tickets are \$250 per person (\$500/couple). Sponsorships for the event begin at \$1,500. Invitations to the Fete will be mailed and published in the August *Green Thumb News*. For more information call the development office, 370-8027.

Arnold Employee of the Month

The April Employee of the Month is a tireless worker who started out with the Gardens in 1960 as a volunteer, then two years ago was asked to join the staff because of her unrivaled experience in volunteerism — Joedy Arnold. Now DBG's volunteer coordinator, she is recognized, especially, for temporarily assuming the role of Gift Shop manager at the end of last year in the absence of a regular manager. She has been invaluable in assisting the Gift Shop Board and the director of finance and administration in managing day to day gift shop operations. Joedy's dedication to the Gardens and the volunteers is exemplary, and she is always a positive, cooperative ambassador of goodwill for the Gardens. Congratulations Joedy!

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks the following who began or renewed their memberships in the second-quarter of 1996 at supporting levels.

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Birthdays ... anniversaries ... memorials ...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for information.

From your membership office

Your card is your ticket

The busy summer season is fast approaching and the visitor services department would like to remind all members to show their membership cards to the gate house cashiers before you enter the Gardens. Your membership is valuable. Showing your current membership card each time you enter allows DBG to keep an accurate count of who visits the Gardens and helps in the collection of admission fees from those who are not members.

Take a peek behind the scenes

DBG members at the Arbor Circle level and above are invited to an open house of the production greenhouse areas Wednesday, June 5. At 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. DBG greenhouse staff and volunteers will be on hand to lead tours and answer questions. Light refreshments will be available. Since space is limited and reservations are required, please call 370-8018 soon.

Give Dad a Sunday sundae treat

Members are invited to the Gardens on Father's Day, Sunday, June 16, to enjoy an ice cream sundae with your father. There will be musical entertainment throughout the event, and the opportunity for kids to make their dad a boutonniere to wear on his special day. The festivities will take place in the oak grove (follow the signs from the entrance) from 2 to 4 p.m. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$2 per person; children 2 and younger are free. Tickets may be purchased at the event. For information call 370-8018.

Annual picnic will croon barber shop harmonies in July

Join in a night of four-part harmony at this year's annual members picnic Tuesday, July 16. DBG is pleased to have The Denver Mountaineers barber shop quartets to entertain from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children also can have their faces painted and to participate in other activities.

Bring your picnic supper and come prepared to have a good ole' time — we'll provide root beer floats for dessert. Watch your mail for your special "Garden of Harmony" invitation and complete price and reservation information.

'95 annual report available

Members may pick up a complimentary copy of Denver Botanic Gardens' 1995 Annual Report at the reception office, 909 York St., or receive it by mail by calling 331-4000. The report, edited by Larry Latta and designed by Julie Langenthal of DBG's Marketing and Special Events Department, contains a narrative of the year's achievements and the Gardens' financial statements.


**Denver Botanic Gardens is proud
to present its second BirdHaus Bash.**

The BirdHaus Competition attracted works from architects, designers, carpenters, ornithologists, artists, students, children and art classes.

The exhibit will be fun and fanciful.

It will open to the public June 26 through July 14.

You are invited to a special preview.



Celebrate the opening with BirdHaus Bash

garden party and auction.

Tuesday, June 25, 5:30 - 8p.m.

5:30 p.m. Silent Auction opens
(concludes following live auction)

7:15 p.m. Live Auction

Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York Street

Auctioneer

Scott Alexander, Kildow & Company

International Buffet

Epicurean Catering

Complimentary beer and wine bar featuring
Wynkoop brews. Cash bar also available

\$45 per person

(\$22 tax-deductible contribution)

Proceeds will benefit Denver Botanic Gardens' education and horticulture programs.

June

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30						

July						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Inside this Green Thumb News

Gardens will be open selected summer evenings for "Sunset Strolls."
page 3

Plants hundreds of years old will be featured in bonsai exhibit.
page 3

New waterlily hybrids are evaluated at DBG.
page 4

You are invited to the 1996 BirdHaus Bash.
page 7

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909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Coming Up:

June

- 1 Denver Rose Society Old Garden Roses Display
** Watercolor Painting I*
Bird Walk & Breakfast
Flowers, Insects & Pollination
Japanese Tea Ceremony III
- 1, 2 American Iris Society Region 20 Show
- 2 *Wildflowers of Green Mountain*
Japanese Tea Ceremony IV
- 3 Free day at DBG
** Basic Home Landscape Design*
** Beginning Bonsai*
- 4 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 5 *Herb Walk*
Behind-the-Scenes Tour — for Arbor Circle level members and above
Gloxinia, Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 7 Free day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 9 Colorado Water Garden Society Plant Sale
- 10 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
** Perennial Advantage*
- 11 *Zen of Botanical Illustration*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting

- 12 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
** Hardscapes I*
- 13 *Botanical Artists Workshop*
- 15 *Roses at Fairmount Cemetery*
Japanese Tea Ceremony V
- 15, 16 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Exhibition
- 16 Father's Day Ice Cream Social — for members and their families
Japanese Tea Ceremony VI
- 17 ** Rocky Mountain Horticulture II*
** Arranging Lessons with Fresh Flowers*
- 18 *Backyard Composting*
** Old Garden Roses*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society new member meeting
- 19 ** Plants as Educational Tools (K-8)*
NARGS Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting
- 21 Summer Concert: Carter Brey & Christopher O'Riley
Butterfly Pavilion & Insect Center
- 22 ** Trough Garden Workshop*
Golden Gate State Park
Magic Mountain Archaeological Site
- 22, 23 *Rocky Mountain Koi Club Show*
- 25 BirdHaus Bash

- 26 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
Summer Flower Arranging I
Herb Society of America meeting
- 26 - 7/14 BirdHaus Display
- 27 ** Introduction to Horticultural Therapy*
Ultra Violet Club meeting
- 28 Summer Concert: Leo Kottke
- 29 Breakfast & Early Tour — Botanist level members & above
Kidding Around: "Fanciful Flyers"
Loveland Pass Wildflowers
Japanese Tea Ceremony VII
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
- 30 *Judith Fine-Sarchielli: Al Fresco Dining*
Japanese Tea Ceremony VIII

July

- 1 Free day at DBG
- 2 ** Watercolor Painting II*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 6 Free day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 ** Hardscapes II*
- 9 *Wild Grasses Workshop*
** Dry It. You'll Like It!*
** Beginning Bonsai*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

July 1996



Herb Fair July 13 a potpourri of fun and learning



One of today's most popular trends — growing and using herbs — will be celebrated at Denver Botanic Gardens' second annual Herb Fair July 13.

Experts will share tips on growing herbs, using herbs for medicinal and culinary purposes and creating beautiful herbal crafts at the event. Herb plants will be for sale, so visitors can try their own hand at growing these popular plants — and reaping the rewards.

Guided tours are scheduled throughout the day in DBG's Herb Garden. Children can participate in hands-on educational activities. Herbal crafts and specialty food items also will be for sale.

Herb experts Carolyn Dille, Rob Proctor and David Macke will share their culinary and growing expertise during two special ticketed lectures. Pre-registration is required for the lectures.

Carolyn Dille's "Herbs: Flavor, Scent and Savor" will explore the many possible herbal blends in cooking. Her program from 10:30 a.m. to noon will reveal balanced and pleasing taste combinations of herbs and foods. Each participant will receive a mini-bouquet of herbs that Dille will refer to in her cooking demonstration.

Dille has written several cooking and kitchen gardening books including *Herbs in the Kitchen*, *The Garlic Book* and *The Greens Book*. Through her travels to Europe, Mexico and across the United States she has collected recipes, information and stories about food and people. Several of Dille's books will be for sale in the DBG Gift Shop, and Dille will sign them from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

(Continued on page 10: "Herb Fair...")

Former East High principal leads DBG education department, sees roles in higher education

DBG executive director Richard H. Daley announced the appointment of Pia Smith, former principal of Denver's East High School, as DBG education director.

Smith was a 16-year staff veteran of Denver Public Schools, serving 10 years as an administrator. Her teaching career was in biological sciences.

"Smith's long and successful experience with program and staff development in the public schools made her an extremely attractive candidate for the position here at the Gardens," Daley said. "I'm sure she will enhance the already exceptional qualities of our education program."

"Another of our considerations was an expanded role in public school curriculums we predict for Denver Botanic Gardens. As funding for public school programs wanes, DBG and other Tier One organizations of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District — with their science education expertise — will be called on to provide assistance."

Smith foresees that DBG's education department will develop more off-site programs, especially in cooperation with public school systems, and would like to focus on science literacy.

Smith said she will explore the possibility of additional cooperative ventures at the university level, as well. She cites the current "Rocky Mountain Gardening Certificate Program" as an example. Accredited by the University of Colorado at Denver, the program was developed and is administered by DBG adult education coordinator Paula Ogilvie.

(Continued on page 2: "Former East...")

Green Thumb News July 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, edited by Larry Latta, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Deadline for Sept. issue: Aug. 16

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Mon. and Tues., 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
Wed. through Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Horticultural therapy 370-8040
Jobs, human resources 370-8000
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Guided tours 370-8019
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

Even though it's summer vacation time for most students, education at DBG never stops. Learning opportunities throughout the year enable us to teach the next generation of gardeners and environmental stewards of all ages. We are constantly challenged to meet the needs of even the youngest visitors. This is all a major part of our education commitment to the community and is under the very able direction of Geralyn Warfield, youth education coordinator.

Early this year, the lobby court display included magnifying glasses at a kid-friendly height, encouraging up-close observations of examples of a variety of plant families, both living and fossilized. Additional hands-on experiences for all ages, part of the new interpretation plan being developed with Formations, Inc., of Portland, Ore., will enable visitors to understand the interrelationships of people and plants as they travel throughout the Gardens.

Schoolchildren are an important audience for us, both on- and off-site. More than 17,000 students from preschool through grade 12 have visited the Gardens for guided and unguided visits in the last 12 months. To assist teachers in their presentation of plant-related units, DBG offers approximately 10 teacher training programs annually, on subjects as specific as grasslands or wetlands to more general courses focusing on hands-on classroom science or using plants to integrate students with diverse abilities and backgrounds.

Our continued commitment to children and their education includes plans, now in the review process, for an on-site Children's Garden and Discovery Building for science programs. Preliminary plans for the garden reflect ideas generated by students early in the design process, from a child-sized entrance (adults will have their own special access) to water features and topiaries. We anticipate being better able to reach school groups and families when this facility is completed.

Education at the Gardens is blossoming, all year long. If you'd like more information on this important program, please call 370-8020.

— Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Former East...

(Continued from page 1)

"I would like to see more programs of this type in the future, perhaps a degree program, with some classes held at the Gardens and some at the other institutions," Smith said. "Higher education budgets in Colorado are being slashed, too. It may be necessary for Tier One organizations to step in and fill some roles formerly reserved for colleges and universities."

At East High School Smith managed a staff of 175. Of her move to DBG, with a dozen full-time education department workers, she is enthusiastic, saying she is "very happy to be in a smaller environment. I'm especially happy to have the opportunity to teach again. DBG is a wonderful lab space for life sciences."

Smith, a native of Denver and graduate of East High School, received her Master of Arts degree in educational administration from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. She served on the board of Colorado AIDS Project; was a trustee for the President's Leadership Class at the University of Colorado, Boulder; and was a governor's appointee to the Standards and Assessment Development Council.

Kids learn "Designs on Science" at Denver Zoo

Children are invited to spend July 13 at the Denver Zoo exploring the science of design: investigating carnivorous plants, blowing bubbles, investigating crystals, learning about bird flight and creating an imaginary animal. Times are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The program, "Designs in Science," is one of five in the series sponsored in part by the National Science Foundation to highlight science in our everyday lives. The final two events are Sept. 7 at Denver Botanic Gardens and Dec. 26 to 30 at Collage Children's Museum in Boulder.

Chatfield aflutter with butterflies, counters

The butterflies of Chatfield Arboretum will attract the attention of insect enthusiasts in July.

DBG offers an evening class, "Colorado Butterflies," at the Arboretum July 16, then stages a "Butterfly Census" there July 20 in cooperation with a nationwide count of the beautiful creatures.

The class, led by Mike Weissmann, curator of the Butterfly Pavilion and Insect Center, is \$8 for DBG members. Participation in the census, led by Weissmann and Chatfield Arboretum naturalist Marsha Staughton, is free for members. To register or receive more information call 370-8020.

DBG touts peanuts at Black Arts Festival

Visit Denver Botanic Gardens' tent at the 10th annual Black Arts Festival July 12 to 14 from 10 to 5 p.m. The tent will shelter displays and activities focusing on George Washington Carver, America's famous educator, botanist, agronomist and inventor.

DBG's horticultural tie-in is the peanut, which Carver developed hundreds of uses for. There will be several hands-on activities for kids and some exciting peanut projects to take home. Did you know that peanuts and peanut by-products have been used for everything from gasoline to shaving cream? DBG's booth will focus on where peanuts come from, how they grow, and why they are more than just a tasty snack. Visitors will learn a little history, investigate some products and take home a nutty activity.

DBG's booth in City Park West will be open 12 to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The main festival is open until 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Summer watercolor show brightens Mitchell Hall

The annual DBG show by the Colorado Watercolor Society will brighten John C. Mitchell II Hall July 19 to 28 with paintings in all watercolor styles, from impressionism to "super realism," still life settings to landscapes.

The juried show offers DBG members a personal opportunity to see and own paintings by some of Colorado's finest painters. The 40-year-old society numbers more than 210 members statewide.

Entries will be judged by Arvada artist Arleta Pech. Pech's works have been hung in many one-woman shows across the United States and, among others, in seven Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibitions, and the 1996 Great Women Artists of America Show in Chicago.

Hours of the show are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists will host an open reception Sunday, Aug. 21, 2 to 5 p.m. For more information call 940-9254.

Enjoy music, art and food at Sunset Strolls



In July Denver Botanic Gardens will offer visitors two opportunities to explore the Gardens in its most beautiful afternoon light while listening to peaceful music and enjoying delightful refreshments.

Sunset Strolls in the Gardens are July 10 and 24 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

July 10 offers a great opportunity for visitors to check out the many birdhouses and bird feeders entered in the Gardens' second annual BirdHaus Bash Competition. Two harpists, Lisa Graziano and Lilly Kellogg, will play "strolling music" in the Home Demonstration Garden and Water Garden gazebos. The Concordia String Quartet will harmonize at the west end of the amphitheater. And a children's suzuki strings group will play. Pour la France!, DBG's summer caterer, will prepare London broil, chicken divine sandwiches and baklava for strollers to purchase.

July 24 the Colorado Watercolor Society show will be in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Harpists Lisa Graziano and Lilly Kellogg, the Concordia String Quartet and the children's suzuki strings group all return to the Gardens. And Bob Seigetsu Svstreh will play his Japanese shakuhachi flute in the Japanese Garden. Pour la France! will provide a taste of Italy—with pizzas, calzones and tiramisu for sale.

Both nights The Espresso Affair will be selling iced capuccino and espresso beverages. Or, visitors are invited to bring their own picnic dinners. Artists will paint and draw their impressions of the beautiful evening scenes throughout the Gardens.

Cost of Sunset Strolls for DBG members is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors 65 and older, youth 6 to 15 years old and students with IDs. Nonmember cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, youth and students. The summer's final strolls are Aug. 14 and 28. For more information call 370-8187.

Congress house tour benefits Teller school

The Teller Elementary School Parents, Teachers and Students Association has organized a Congress Park neighborhood house tour for Sunday, Sept. 15. Planned as the "first annual," the tour will generate funds to benefit the student population, through the Teller PTSA. Sponsors are John Sullivan, a Realtor, and the PTSA, and is supported by Congress Park Neighbors Inc., the neighborhood association. Tickets are for sale at several neighborhood King Soopers stores and at Teller Elementary School. For information call 329-9291.

Avalanche, Rockies face off in fantastic BirdHaus Competition

The newly crowned world champion Colorado Avalanche hockey team and baseball's Colorado Rockies will be represented in DBG's fantastic BirdHaus Display, on view at the Gardens through July 14. The Avalanche "perch" is constructed from hockey sticks and a helmet used by Colorado's newest sports heroes. The Rockies work was designed by HOK, the designers of Denver's beautiful Coors Field. Both pieces are signed by team players.

The fantastic display also features a "nest" by glass bowl artist Dale Chihuly, the most collected and exhibited glass artist in the country, and a "house" by artist Italo Scanga, whose sculptures and paintings are in many major collections, including the Museum of Modern Art. The Chihuly sculpture is valued at \$8,000, the Scanga at \$3,000.

Two hundred other entries were received for the second annual competition. Visitors can find them throughout the York Street site.

The display is included in DBG's standard admission fee, free to members.

Glass show features un-shown originals

The annual "Glass at the Gardens" show by the Colorado Glass Arts Fellowship — which will be at the Gardens Aug. 1 to 11 — will be a rare Rocky Mountain opportunity to see and buy original works that have not been shown for competition before. It is the largest U.S. show of its kind outside the famous glass producing area in Pennsylvania.

"Glass at the Gardens" is especially interesting for the range of techniques that are demonstrated within the confines of a single medium. Works displayed are in stained glass, painted glass, blown glass, slumped glass, etched glass, leaded glass and newer forms.

Pieces range from pennies into thousands of dollars. Utilitarian works, such as lampshades and jewelry boxes, are shown alongside fine art sculptures and toys.

Hours of the show are the same as DBG's summer schedule: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., except for Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, when the Gardens closes at 5 p.m. The show is open also the concert evenings of Aug. 7 and 9. Members enter the show free; nonmembers pay only the standard DBG gate fee.

Tree planted to honor Japanese Sister State

Officials from Yamagata, Japan, and Denver planted a cherry tree in the Denver Botanic Gardens Japanese garden June 4 to honor the 10th anniversary of the Sister State relationship between Yamagata and Colorado. DBG's executive director Richard H. Daley and trustees joined Yamagata governor Kazuo Takasashi and Japanese officials and business leaders in DBG's Japanese garden *Shofu-en*, the Garden of Pine Wind, to plant the tree.

Unlike many other parts of Japan, where the famed cherry trees produce no fruit, Yamagata is famous for its fruit-producing blossoms. Five years ago, 100 *Prunus donarium sieb. var. sachalinesis makimo* seeds were brought from Yamagata to Colorado, where Dr. Akira Suzuki, former University of Colorado researcher, propagated them. Of the 100 seeds, 25 germinated and 10 trees survived. Suzuki donated one of these hardy fruiting cherry trees for the ceremony. It was planted just west of DBG's Japanese tea house. The tree's bright pink blossoms should produce dark red cherries in future years.

The Sister State program helps foster an understanding between U.S. and Japanese cultures by exposing each to the other's social and political traditions.



July 12 The Colorado Symphony's
Up Close and Musical—
For the Kids!

July 26 The Milt Jackson Quartet

August 7 Michael & Sharon Doucet...
and Friends — For the Kids!

August 9 Tuck & Patti

August 16 Wind Machine

August 22 Leon Redbone with Special Guest

August 29 Cyrano de Bergerac

August 30 A Midsummer Night's Dream

September 4 Cyrano de Bergerac

September 5 A Midsummer Night's Dream

For more information or to order tickets call 777-3876 or 370-8187.

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The Classical Voice of Denver

Kirk reports Leadership Campaign over the goal

Leadership Campaign chairman Dick Kirk reported that Denver Botanic Gardens has surpassed its \$7 million campaign goal, with more than \$7,200,000 now committed. Kirk said, "Surpassing this goal is a real milestone for the Gardens — \$7 million is more than double what has been raised in a campaign in the past.

"The response from members and friends of the Gardens to our plans has been overwhelmingly positive. We are really thrilled to be moving ahead with some wonderful improvements that will satisfy the excitement and interest of our friends and members."

Board President Don Kany said, "The funds will allow us to make substantial improvements that will secure the Gardens' place as a nationally prominent botanic garden as well as a great resource in our community. The entire Board of Trustees is greatly appreciative of the strong support we have received from the community for this important drive."

Funds raised through the campaign will support several improvements at the York Street site: The Boettcher Memorial Conservatory and the Perennial Border — to be renamed the O'Fallon Perennial Walk — will be completely renovated. The DBG Gift Shop will be expanded. The public parking lot will be expanded. An exhibit will be installed near the front entrance to welcome and guide visitors. And, pending City approval, a Romantic Garden complex with a fragrance garden, waterway garden, and temperate greenhouse will be constructed in the southeast corner of the Gardens.

Rick Daley, executive director, said, "This is an exciting and a much needed effort to take the Gardens into the next century. The underlying concept of the campaign and these projects is to reaffirm our mission to advance education about and enjoyment of plants, and to make certain that, as community needs change, the Gardens is able to serve its audience well."

Romantic Gardens: fragrances, courtyard, waterway and temperate display

Denver Botanic Gardens executive director Richard H. Daley this spring formally announced plans to enhance its outdoor gardens with a new group of gardens known as the Romantic Gardens, to be located in the southeastern part of the York Street site. The project was presented to the Neighborhood Advisory Group.

The Romantic Gardens will allow DBG to create formal spaces that draw on a traditional garden design not previously present in its York Street gardens, to display the Gardens' extensive collection of fragrant plants in a manner that adds to our repertoire of educational content, and to provide new functional spaces to accommodate a growing demand for education and tours within the garden setting.

The gardens will be designed in the style of garden "rooms" and will include a Waterway Garden, a Fragrance Garden, a Temperate Greenhouse and a Courtyard Garden.

The Fragrance Garden, given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin, will be a major addition designed to excite the olfactory as well as the visual senses. Its plants will attract a variety of pollinators that will enhance educational opportunities as well as the garden's aesthetic qualities.

The new Waterway Garden, funded in part by the El Pomar Foundation, will feature a long, narrow, shimmering pool that will border a pathway flanked by a series of specimen trees selected for their beauty and architectural forms. Its stucco walls and simple design are in the style of eminent Mexican landscape architect Louis Barragan.

The Temperate Greenhouse, a structure of about 2,000 square feet, will house both permanent flower beds and container plants such as citrus trees, jasmine, non-hardy azaleas, camellias and special hanging plants. The greenhouse will increase the diversity of plants on display, especially indoors during the winter.

The Courtyard Garden, made possible through funding from the Schlessman Family Foundation and the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, will be a focal point within the Romantic Gardens. Visitors and tours will use it as a gathering place between the temperate greenhouse and the Fragrance Garden. The Courtyard Garden will be richly paved and landscaped and will demonstrate container gardening in exciting new ways.

"Together, the Romantic Gardens will present varied and unusual horticulture and garden architecture," Daley said. "They will greatly extend the range of beautiful displays at the Gardens and offer our visitors more to see throughout the year."

Daley said DBG hopes the plans for the Romantic Gardens will have received final approval by late summer so that construction may begin in 1996, with completion set for the summer of 1997.



Richard A. Kirk, Leadership Campaign chairman, Life trustee

Thank You

Denver Botanic Gardens, with warmth and appreciation, recognizes the many individuals, families, corporations, foundations, associations and clubs who invested in the continued excellence of the Gardens through their gifts and pledges to the Leadership Campaign. Thank you.

Capital Campaign Gifts and Pledges 1993-1995

More than \$1 Million

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The Boettcher Foundation
The Gates Foundation

\$100,000 to \$999,999

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Benson
Bonfils Stanton Foundation
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O'Fallon Perennial walk the first new project to bloom

DBG staff, trustees and one of the garden's designers were present June 12 for the long-awaited groundbreaking for the O'Fallon Perennial Walk, the first of several improvements planned at the Gardens' York Street site.

The first shovel of dirt was turned by Denver Botanic Gardens Executive Director Richard H. Daley, DBG Board of Trustees President Donald J. Kany, Director of Horticulture Jim Henrich and garden designer Rob Proctor. Then, numerous gardeners and volunteers began construction of the new perennial beds. Planting continued throughout June, as colors and textures were artfully combined to create a masterpiece garden.

"We're confident that this major new garden will be one of the grandest perennial gardens in the United States and the only one devoted to Western-style perennials," Daley said.

Funding for the renovation was provided by the Martin J. and Mary Anne O'Fallon Trust. Proctor and Lauren Springer, the designers of the O'Fallon Perennial Walk, are known nationally as well as to local gardeners as teachers and as authors of numerous books and articles.

The concept was created by Environmental Planning & Design in Pittsburgh, Penn., and Colorado Hardscapes of Denver is the primary construction contractor. The plants will be installed by the DBG horticulture department.

More than 700 kinds of perennials will make up the two dramatically tapering 210-foot borders that flank the new basket-weave patterned brick walk. Plants were selected for performance in Colorado's climate, by their long bloom time—from March through October—and by their sophisticated blend of color, form and texture. Old favorites, such as irises, peonies and daylilies will mingle with recent introductions and improved varieties.

The borders will showcase the best plants for Colorado's climate; plants that need excessive work to look good or excessive amounts of water will not be included.

The two borders will complement each other. The rainbow color scheme made up mostly of perennials but incorporating bulbs, shrubs, annuals and tender plants, will be ever-changing, offering visitors a new look each time they return. The borders will showcase the best plants for Colorado's climate, intermingling old favorites with recent introductions.

Each section of the double borders will contain a dominant color and a contrasting color "echo" that dominates the next quadrant. Subtle pastels near the entrance will move to more vibrant, hot colors near the center, ending on the south with deep violets and moodier shades.

Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Lukens
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Manoogian
Mr. & Mrs. John Manos
Dr. Richard L. Masters
Ms. Patricia McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. Neil McLagan
Mrs. Pearl Mehl
Merrill Lynch
Roswitha Moehring
Miss Anna Lisa Moline
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald W. Moore
Mr. Steven G. Moore
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Mrs. William Neilson Jr.
Mr. Sidney Nelson
Ms. Ann H. Newman
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Ms. Mary T. Yamashita

Renewed conservatory to set standard for tropical educational experience

Since its construction over thirty years ago, Boettcher Memorial Conservatory has been the landmark of Denver Botanic Gardens. It was designated a national landmark, as well, by the National Historic Preservation Commission, an honor that goes to very few buildings less than fifty years old.

However, its importance is not only as a piece of architecture. For thirty years it has led the way in Denver in education on the tropics, and on the plants and the unique ecosystems found there.

Nearly half of the plant species on earth live only in the tropics. With the known extinction of thousands of species of plants and the ever-increasing rate of their extinction, what we need to learn may be gone before it can be discovered. There is an extreme urgency to know as much as we can and to raise the consciousness of as many individuals as possible about stewardship of the tropics.

The interior of the conservatory will be redesigned to show the diversity of tropical plants and ecosystems, and known economically valuable plants. It will illustrate with living plants how we all depend on the tropics.

For the conservatory to carry effectively the urgent message about the tropics, essential changes must be made within the structure. After thirty years, the physical systems of the building are ineffective, out-dated, and in many cases irreparable. In addition to infrastructure updates, we are proposing the virtual reinvention of the Conservatory's interior to support tropical habitats. These habitats include tropical streams, tree fall areas and forests. The Boettcher Foundation is providing a majority of the funds needed for the renovation.

A central element in the conservatory will be the Rain Forest Exhibit. The lush rain forests are the epitome of the tropics, the most diverse ecosystem on earth. The exhibit, made possible through a gift from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, will seek to capture this exciting richness with a variety of low and mid-level shrubs, ferns, plants and vines that lead to the trees forming an upper level canopy near the top of the conservatory.

To view the Rain Forest Exhibit, a Treehouse Exhibit, fabricated to resemble a huge living banyan tree, will enclose an elevator and stairway for access to the levels

of the exhibit and to the upper level of the conservatory. The realistic tree will have holes, aerial roots and branches to support bromeliads, orchids, and other epiphytes. The elevator will provide access for the handicapped and will offer vertical perspectives for viewing the different levels of the rain forest. Rarely, if ever, are garden visitors given this revealing experience. A grant from the Morrison Trust will help build this exhibit.

Very few botanic gardens in the United States display their orchid and bromeliad collections in naturalistic settings. We propose to establish a national standard by compressing the experience of the tropics into an epiphytic exhibit that features one of the best orchid and bromeliad collections in the country.

The entire renovation of the conservatory will be a dramatic achievement in architecture, engineering, horticulture, education and aesthetics. And it once again will set a national standard for education about tropical flora.



Daylilies, perennials bloom all season long in renovated display

DBG staff members and volunteers from the Mile High Daylily Society have created a new daylily display area at 1005 York St. that blooms all season long, presenting not only the variety and meaningfulness of the daylily in botany and horticulture, but demonstrating how versatile daylilies are in garden settings. Alongside the daylilies are dozens of other kinds of plants, from spring bulbs through fall asters, to show how beautiful a "daylily bed" can be.

The educational display is the first of its kind to fully illustrate the range of colors in daylily blossoms and the historical development of the plant from its species roots to modern hybrids. The display was renovated in anticipation of the 50th Anniversary of the American Hemerocallis Society, which meets in Denver this summer.

The display is in five sections: a species collection, a heritage collection, the "color web," the Region 9 hybridizers section and daylilies as water garden plants.

The species collection is of particular importance in identifying the basic building blocks of modern hybrid cultivars. It recommends, also, strains best adapted to Rocky Mountain horticulture.

The heritage collection traces important genetic steps in daylily development. The bed is arranged in chronological order, beginning with the first registered American hybrid, 'Florham' (1899). It contains other heirloom varieties and modern diploid hybrids.

The color web is a dramatic illustration of the range of daylily colors, from hot oranges, reds and golds through pastels and neutrals to cool blue-reds and purples.

In the Region 9 hybridizers section are cultivars created by growers in Colorado and Utah. Prominent among these is 'Kindly Light,' with a classic blossom against which all other spider-form daylilies are judged, created by Coloradan LeMoine Bechtold in 1949.

In the reflecting pools near the main daylily display are experimental plantings of daylilies — which already have a reputation as drought tolerant plants — among emergent (bog) plants. Initial observations indicate a bright future for several cultivars in water garden settings.

Members are, of course, urged to view the daylily display next month when they visit the annual daylily show. But there are kinds of daylilies that bloom from May through September. To appreciate the enormous range of this versatile garden plant, more frequent visits are recommended.



Clockwise from top: daylily 'Kindly Light' with Artemisia 'Prowis Castle', daylily 'Florham' and daylily 'Red Volunteer'

Rhizome sale just in time to plant irises

Local members of the American Iris Society will sell freshly dug iris rhizomes at the Gardens Sunday, July 21 — at just the right time for gardeners to buy and plant them.

The rhizomes are divisions of plants in the collections of the society's connoisseurs, so this is a rare opportunity to buy locally grown and tested plants of newer varieties. Since society members want to induce as many people as possible to know and grow the improved varieties, prices at this sale are very affordable.

Irises send out their new feeder roots during the summer. Planting them now allows them to establish a strong root system to carry them vigorously into the next blooming season.

The sale is from 9 a.m. until the plants are sold. Members are urged to arrive early. Proceeds go to the American Iris Society and DBG for the purpose of promoting the cultivation of irises and improving them as garden plants.



Herb Fair



Clockwise from top: David Macke,
Rob Proctor and Carolyn Dille

Herb Fair...

(Continued from page 1)

From 1:30 to 3 p.m. Rob Proctor and David Macke will explore the many possibilities of growing herbs in "A Garden with Herbs." Proctor and Macke will discuss the potential of integrating herbs throughout a garden—in the border, the vegetable garden, the water-smart garden, on the patio and beneath trees. Herbs can be combined with ornamentals, bulbs, shrubs, groundcovers and perennials to create a lush garden anywhere. The speakers will demonstrate how herbs' intriguing aromas can enhance even the most modest yard.

Proctor and Macke frequently write for *The Herb Companion*. Currently they are working on a book about herbs in the home landscape. Proctor has written numerous books and is co-author of the weekly "Front Range Gardeners" column in *The Denver Post*. Macke has been gardening in Denver for 16 years, and his garden has been featured on the Channel Six Victory Garden tour and DBG summer garden tours.

Between lectures, participants will be served a lunch featuring herb recipes from Dille's books: cherry tomato salad with rocket and basil, white bean salad with thyme and mint, potato salad with red peppers and basil, lemon thyme grilled chicken legs and buttermint cookies. Lunch is from noon to 1:30 p.m. During the lunch break, lecture-goers also can investigate the Herb Fair activities throughout the Gardens.

The Herb Fair is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost, which includes all activities except the lectures, is \$4 for adults, \$2 for seniors 65 and older, students with IDs and children 6 to 15. DBG members and children 5 and younger are admitted free. For more information call (303) 370-8187.

Admission to the lectures and the lunch in DBG's John C. Mitchell II Hall is by ticket only. Cost is \$40 for DBG members and \$50 for non-members. Lunch and admission to the Herb Fair is included in the price of the ticket. Preregistration is required; call 370-8020.



Lecture Registration

Name _____

DBG Member ID _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

\$40 DBG Members \$50 Nonmembers

Enclosed is \$ _____ ☐ Check (payable to Denver Botanic Gardens)

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Signature _____

Mail to: Education Department
Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, CO 80206-3799

Or call: 303-370-8020

Plants from the pages of DBG Fowler Library

*O my brother you must go hence
As warrior of our monarch
Steadfastly protect the crown.
As the day lily
Behind yon tree,
Protect me 'gainst misery.
(Chinese folk song)*

Some gardeners consider the daylily a truly "American" plant. It almost outbid the rose in the quest for a national flower. But its Oriental history can be documented back to the folk song above, probably written in the 5th century B.C. The daylily, there, is grown for food, medicine and garden pleasure.

It first appeared in Europe in the 16th century. There it became such a ubiquitous garden flower that some Europeans claimed it to be native. In the early 20th century, youthful A. B. Stout, former director at the New York Botanical Garden, became perplexed about daylily seed production, and the world of daylilies changed forever. Stout was obsessed with daylilies and promoted hybridizing, searches for more species from the Orient and publicizing the plants' charms through the American Hemerocallis Society. Thanks to efforts of the society we now have thousands of kinds of this truly "American" flower.

Information for this article came from *A Passion for Daylilies: the Flowers and the People* by Sydney Eddison; *Hemerocallis: Day Lilies* by Walter Erhardt; *Hemerocallis: The Daylily* by R. W. Munson, Jr; and *Daylilies: The Wild Species and Garden Clones, Both Old and New of the Genus Hemerocallis* by A. B. Stout.

—Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian

DAR hoists new flag in Flag Day ceremony

Members of the Colorado Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution gathered at the DBG flag pole near York Street June 14 to present a new American flag to the Gardens. The National Flag Day ceremony included the presentation by Ruth B. Polliard, regent of the Colorado chapter; raising of the flag by cadets from George Washington High School ROTC; and singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the officials and DBG staff members.

The DAR gift is an annual one. In 1962 it also donated the flag pole.

From your membership office

Smith & Hawken offers discounts

We are pleased to welcome Smith & Hawken at 268 Detroit St. in Cherry Creek North as a new membership sponsor. Smith & Hawken will give current DBG Gardener, Landscaper and Arbor Circle members a 10 percent discount, and Botanist Club members and those at a higher level a 15 percent discount. Stop in and say hello to our new friends at Smith & Hawken!

Use your upper level membership card for concert ticket discounts

Members at the \$50 Arbor Circle level or above are eligible for reduced ticket prices for DBG's 1996 Summer Series plays and concerts. However, you must present your qualifying membership card when purchasing tickets at the box office at 1005 York to receive this benefit.

Picnic will sound with "Gardens in Harmony" for members, guests

DBG members and guests are invited to the Members Annual Picnic, "Gardens in Harmony," Tuesday, July 16, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Special entertainment will include The Denver Mountainairs Barbershop Quartet and Chorus, face painters, a unicyclist and jugglers and a children's craft activity. Boxed dinners will be available, or you may bring your own picnic dinner. Complementary rootbeer floats will be served.

The price is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children older than 2. Children 2 and younger get in free. Reservations must be made by July 12: Call the special events line, 370-8187.

Hill is employee of the month

DBG Employee of the Month for May was Mike Hill, manager of operations. Although Mike has only been with the Gardens since November, his impact is readily visible to all who visit. Some of his accomplishments include hiring a new security company and cleaning staff, and remodeling the bathrooms in the Education Building. Mike is commended for his initiative and commitment to constantly improving DBG as evidenced by his outstanding job performance. Congratulations, Mike!

Tributes

In memory of Bruce Behr

Ms. Serita E. Behr

In memory of Mrs. Jarvis Cromwell

Ms. Serita E. Behr

In memory of Phoebe Ebaugh

Mr. & Mrs. Don Snapp

In memory of Ada Terry Gorman

Ms. Marjorie Ridgway

In memory of Jeanette Johns

Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Holben

In memory of Louise Knoblock

Lanie and Buzz Jackson

In memory of Robert Kosanke

Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens

Joan Boatright

Claire R. Broms

Ms. Syd Glick

Ms. Margaret Wallace

In memory of Sue Ellen Roser

Barbara Dalke

In honor of Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

Ms. Mary Corcoran

Mr. E.H. Zeidler

Birthdays...anniversaries...memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for information.

July

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Inside this Green Thumb News

Stroll the Gardens in the evening and enjoy music, food and art.
page 3

BirdHaus Display entries show off Avalanche and Rockies.
page 4

Check the Summer Series schedule.
page 4

Register early for the Herb Fair lectures.
page 10

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Coming Up:

July

- 1 Free day at DBG
- 1-14 BirdHaus Exhibit
- 2 * *Watercolor Painting II*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 5 Free day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 8 * *Hardscapes II*
- 9 *Wild Grasses Workshop*
* *Dry It. You'll Like It!*
* *Beginning Bonsai*
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
- 10 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
- 11 Denver Rose Society meeting
- 12 Summer Concert: *Colorado Symphony Orchestra* — for families
Tundra of Corona Pass
- 13 Herb Fair
Japanese Tea Ceremony IX
- 14 *Japanese Tea Ceremony X*
- 16 "Garden of Harmony" Members Picnic
* *Summer Roses*
Colorado Butterflies
* *Alpine Ecology*
* *Starting to Draw Flowers*
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

- 18 *Wildflower Identification at Mount Goliath*
- 19 *Rocky Mountain National Park*
- 20 *Butterfly Census at Chatfield Arboretum*
Prairie Picnic
From Cuts to Creations
Close-up Flower Photography
- 20-28 Colorado Watercolor Society Show
- 21 American Iris Society Region 20 Iris Sale
Scripture Garden Walk
West Portal, Eisenhower Tunnel
- 24 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
Herb Society of America meeting
- 25 Gardeners of America meeting
- 26 Summer Concert: Milt Jackson Quartet
- 27 *Boreas Pass*
Kim Sterne Survival Garden
Japanese Tea Ceremony XI
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
- 28 *A Midsummer's Tour*
Insect Safari
Japanese Tea Ceremony XII
Judith Fine-Sarchielli: Al Fresco
Mediterranean Herbed Salads
- 29 *Summer Flower Arranging II*
* *Drawing from Nature*

August

- 1-11 "Glass at the Gardens" Glass Arts Show
- 2 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 3 Japanese Tea Ceremonies & Stories —
for members & their families
- 5 Free Day at DBG
* *Gardening with Natives*
* *Iridescent Buzzing Bombers*
- 6 * *Extending Season: Fall Vegetable Garden*
Stalking Herbs at the Gardens II
- 7 Summer Series Concert: Michael & Sharon
Doucet and Friends — for families
- 8 * *Acrylics for the Botanical Illustrator*
- 9 Summer Series Concert: Tuck & Patti
- 10 Mile High Daylily Society Show & Sale
Gentian Foray at South Park
Reptiles & Amphibians
Japanese Tea Ceremony XIII
- 11 *Japanese Tea Ceremony XIV*
Tuscan Hilltop Picnic
- 12 *Summer Flower Arranging III*
- 13 *Mushroom Workshop*
- 14 Sunset Stroll in the Gardens
* *Beyond Xeriscape*
- 16 Summer Series Concert: Wind Machine

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

August 1996



Sunflower Fest celebrates American Indian ways

Whether lined up at the edge of a garden or strewn along an abandoned fence, sunflowers brighten any scene. Their bright yellow color mimics the sun itself, and their habit of turning their heads to follow the sun from rise to set shows their determination to grow.

Sunflowers are native to America, and the first to use sunflowers for culinary, medicinal and decorative purposes were early American Indians.

Denver Botanic Gardens will hold its 1996 Sunflower Harvest Festival Aug. 24 and 25 to celebrate the culture of American Indians and the sunflower's traditional and modern roles.

American Indians valued sunflowers long before corn and beans were brought to North America. They ate the seeds and ground the kernels into meal and flour. They roasted and ground the shells to make a coffee-like drink. They boiled the seedheads to extract oil. They extracted yellow dye from the fuzzy stalks, and black and purple dyes from the seeds. Sunflower roots were used in making medicines for snakebites and rheumatism, and flower ointments were used to heal burns.

Today American Indians still grow sunflowers for many of the same uses. Sunflowers also have become trendy decorations throughout the U.S. Since sunflowers are among the easiest flowers to grow, they're popular garden treasures for children. In fact, the National Garden Bureau has declared 1996 the Year of the Sunflower.

A tipi raising demonstration Saturday at 9 a.m.

will kick off the Sunflower Festival. As John Emhoolah, a Kiowa spiritual leader, erects the tipi, he will talk about its role in Plains Indian culture. Following the demonstration, visitors can enter the tipi for a first-hand look.

Each day at 9:45 Emhoolah, accompanied by "Honor Guards," American Indian veterans of Colorado, and the Southern War Descendance, a traditional drum and dance group, will lead a blessing ceremony to give thanks for the harvest of crops.

Dance and demonstrations

Throughout the festival visitors can see American Indian dances that celebrate the harvest. The Corn Dance, the Eagle Dance and the Grass Dance will be performed by various youth groups dressed in traditional tribal clothing. Rocky Mountain Star Dancers will perform a hoop dance. Eriks Humeyumptewa, Hopi, will play a traditional flute from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. each day.

Demonstrations will give visitors a first-hand look at American Indian culture. Loma Williams, a Lakota elder, will show how Indians make fry bread and wojopi, a fruit pudding originally made from chokecherries. Emma Yazzie, Navajo, will demonstrate loom weaving in DBG's Lobby Court.

(Continued on page 6: "Sunflower Fest...")



Fall Gardening Fair a chance to learn from experts

Do you want to have a truly spectacular garden next spring? The Fall Gardening Fair, Saturday & Sunday, Sept 7 and 8, is your chance to learn how from the experts.

The weekend includes talks on plant care, workshops, demonstrations, tours of DBG gardens and family activities presented by DBG staff and the gardening industry. All activities are included in the Gardens' standard admission.

For a complete schedule of talks, workshops and tours, see the Fall Gardening Fair insert in this newsletter.

These expert gardening programs are co-sponsored by Denver Botanic Gardens, Colorado Greenhouse Growers Association and Garden Centers of Colorado. The fair begins each day at 10 a.m.

Family and kids activities include Designs on Science, make-it-and-take-it projects in conjunction with National Science and Technology week Saturday, and a Kidding Around activity, making harvest figures from dried plant materials Saturday and Sunday.

The annual Members Plant Dividend giveaway is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, and Dr. Green will be available to answer your gardening questions.

Whether you are a beginning, intermediate or advanced gardener, you will find many ideas for your garden — and discover why fall is a great time for gardening.

Green Thumb News August 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, edited by Larry Latta, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Deadline for Oct. issue: Aug. 16

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Mon. and Tues., 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
Wed. through Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Jobs, human resources 370-8000
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Guided tours 370-8019
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

It is gratifying to note the rapidly growing horticultural scene along the Front Range and elsewhere in the Rocky Mountain West, especially the seeming proliferation of public gardens. Such gardens, whether their mission is the larger one of conservation and botanical and horticultural research — such as Denver Botanic Gardens — or is limited to the attractive display of ornamental plants available to homeowners, perform valuable roles. They interest people in plants and educate them on how to enjoy and use them.

Denver Botanic Gardens, founded in 1951, welcomes these new gardens, encourages them and, in some cases, assists them. In 1989 the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens in Vail was dedicated. From its beginning, when DBG staff was included on its board, our two institutions have had a beneficial cooperative relationship.

This year the Hudson Botanical Garden opened to the public. Primarily a display garden — and still in the process of landscaping — it promises to be a beautiful star in Littleton's growing list of recreational attractions. In June our Rock Alpine Garden curator Panayoti Kelaidis and his assistant Sandy Snyder coordinated the acquisition of plants and marshalled a crew of DBG volunteers to help finish planting Hudson's rock garden.

In October Albuquerque, N.M., plans to unveil its long-awaited botanical garden, and, reflecting the growing interest in plants and the need for guidance in their use, citizens in Colorado Springs, Aspen, Grand Junction and Montrose are in various stages of planning public gardens in those towns. As the leader in Rocky Mountain Horticulture for nearly a half century, we welcome the newest garden to help promote understanding and appreciation of plants.

Denver Botanic Gardens itself received much encouragement and assistance in its beginnings from Missouri Botanical Garden. Continuing that collegial tradition, we are delighted to see the growth in public interest in plants and gardens.

—Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

Zoo celebrates 100th

Join a scavenger hunt for plants with animal names at Denver Botanic Gardens in celebration of Denver Zoo's 100th birthday. Look for hens-and-chicks, dogbane, catmint and lamb's ear.

Cake and ice-cream will be served, and kids will create a special "Where the Wild Things Grow" mask to take home.

Reservations are not required. For questions or more information call 370-8021.

Theater in the Gardens

Four delightful evenings of Theater in the Gardens will wrap up DBG's Summer Series.

Compass Theatre Company will present two of the most delightful and magical of comedies in the repertoire, "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in DBG's outside amphitheater.

Cyrano de Bergerac, directed by Steve Wilson and starring Christopher Selbie as Cyrano, was given the accolade "best classical production in Denver" by *Rocky Mountain News* reviewer Jackie Campbell. Edmond Rostand's play is an action-packed drama of Cyrano, one of the finest swordsmen in France, a gallant soldier with brilliant wit, a tragic lover with the face of a clown. It is a story of chivalry and wit, bravery and love. It will be presented Thursday, Aug. 29, and Wednesday, Sept. 4.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of William Shakespeare's most famous comedies — a story of spirits and spells, tricks and potions, lovers lost and found. The characters fight with the power of desire, with a little help from some meddling fairies, as it takes over their visions and actions. But don't fret — a perfectly happy ending awaits them all. The play will be presented Friday, Aug. 30, and Thursday, Sept. 5.

All performances begin at 7:15 p.m. Gates open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$11 for DBG members, \$13 for nonmembers. To order tickets or for more information, call 777-3836 or 370-8187.

A final chance to stroll

The final Sunset Garden Strolls — evenings to meander through Denver Botanic Gardens while listening to music and enjoying refreshments — are Aug. 14 and 28 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Aug. 14 you can listen to harp music in the Rock Alpine Garden and Home Demonstration Garden, a children's suzuki strings group west of the sunken amphitheater or a shakuhachi flute player in the Japanese Garden. Aug. 28, harpists will play in the Japanese Garden and Home Demonstration Garden, a children's suzuki strings group will perform in the Rock Alpine Garden and a string quartet will entertain west of the amphitheater. Each night artists will be painting or drawing their impressions of the Gardens.

DBG's summer caterer Pour la France! will sell refreshments each night — a Colorado barbecue Aug. 14 or cajun food from the Bayou Aug. 28. Iced cappuccino and espresso also will be available for purchase. Or, you can bring a picnic dinner to share with family or friends.

Admission for members is \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors 65 and older and youth 6 to 15. Nonmember fee is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and youth, and free for children 5 years and younger. Pre-registration is not necessary; you can pay at the front gate the evening of the stroll. For more information, please call 370-8187.

John Fielder "The Art of Seeing" workshops

Join acclaimed Colorado nature photographer and teacher John Fielder for a weekend of photography instruction and beautiful scenery at Roxborough State Park and Denver Botanic Gardens.

The program begins with a lecture Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is open to everyone interested in the how-tos of color landscape photography. The program continues Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning with an intensive hands-on workshop that is limited to 16 participants.

Fielder's unique photography curriculum is derived from his new book *Photographing the Landscape: The Art of Seeing* (September '96 release), a landmark volume whose instructions are derived from 20 years photographing Colorado and the West. The Saturday morning presentation of an all new slide lecture, the field sessions and a Sunday critique of film processed overnight are highlights of the weekend.

Fielder has been photographing the natural world since 1973 and has produced more than 20 books on nature photography. He is the 1993 recipient of Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography, which honors those individuals who have made superlative use of still photography to promote conservation causes.

This workshop is intended for photographers of all skill levels, from beginner to pro, 35mm to large format. Fielder's teaching style is friendly and understandable, and his novel curriculum will stimulate you to reconsider most of what you thought you already knew about photography. You will return home with wonderful photographs of red rock formations at Roxborough and flowers at the Gardens. Advance copies of Fielder's new book will be available at the program.

Cost for the slide lecture alone is \$35 for members and \$42 for nonmembers. Cost for the entire weekend, both lecture and workshop, is \$225 for members, \$275 for nonmembers. Call the education office, 370-8020, for information.

DBG students show botanical illustrations

DBG has announced its first student botanical illustration exhibit. It will be displayed in John C. Mitchell II Hall Nov. 1 to 3. The show is open to all students of DBG's botanical illustrations programs. For additional information or for an entry form, please call 370-8021 or 370-8012.

Society sells daylily plants Aug. 10

The Mile High Daylily Society will hold its annual sale at the Gardens Saturday, Aug. 10. The plants will be divisions from the connoisseur collections of society members.

The sale begins at 9 a.m. and continues until the plants are sold. Members are encouraged to arrive at 9 when the gate opens.

Fair to feature wild Colorado mushrooms

Mushrooms that grow wild in Colorado are featured in the 20th annual Mushroom Fair of the Colorado Mycological Society Sunday, Aug. 18, in John C. Mitchell II Hall. It is the society's once-a-year effort to share with the public its enthusiasm for the fascinating fungi called mushrooms, both for study and as delicious, unusual gourmet ingredients.

"People who have seen mushrooms only at the supermarket may think that 'A mushroom is a mushroom,'" says Larry Renshaw, president of the society. "They don't realize there are literally thousands of wild varieties, many delicious to eat, some that are toxic and poisonous."

Members of the society will foray into the mountains and out onto the plains the day before the fair to obtain fresh specimens for the exhibit. In addition there will be slide shows, photographs, cooking suggestions and mushroom related arts, crafts and books.

Visitors, too, are invited to bring mushrooms into the fair for identification. Official identifier this year is Dr. Harold H. Burdsall Jr., of the Center for Forest Mycology Research, U.S. Forest Service in Madison, Wis. Burdsall will be assisted by local experts. If you collect mushrooms for identification, wrap them in waxed paper — never plastic — immediately after picking and refrigerate them until you bring them to the fair.

Hours of the fair are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is included in DBG's standard admission fees, free to DBG members.



Pholiota squarrosa by Phyllis Shushan



THE DENVER POST
Denver Botanic Gardens
Summer Series
1996

KVOD
92.5 fm
The Classical Voice of Denver

August 7	Michael & Sharon Doucet... and Friends — For the Kids!
August 9	Tuck & Patti
August 16	Wind Machine
August 22	Leon Redbone with Special Guest
August 29	Cyrano de Bergerac
August 30	A Midsummer Night's Dream

For more information or to order tickets
call 777-3876 or 370-8187.

Architects hold “holistic environments” forum

An exploration of ecologically sensitive architectural design, called “Connections: Integration of Our Natural & Built Environments,” will be in John C. Mitchell II Hall Tuesday, Aug. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. The public forum is cosponsored by the Crowther Educational Endowment Fund and the American Institute of Architects of Colorado Committee on the Environment.

Few factors in our daily life influence us as profoundly as our built environments. On average, people spend 90 percent of their life indoors. Most of our buildings have little connection with our natural environment. There is a disjointedness that supports the notion that we in our houses are somehow “apart” from the rest of the natural world. The forum will propose that integrating the physical form of our buildings and our natural environment can help us maximize the health and well being of ourselves and our planet.

Four nationally recognized professionals representing the disciplines of architecture, landscape design, interior design and Feng Shui, the Chinese art of placement, will present a slide show followed by discussion among the speakers and the audience, moderated by Scott Rodwin, Chair of the American Institute of Architects of Colorado, Committee on the Environment.

Presenter Richard Crowther, FAIA, is an internationally recognized architect, author and pioneer in the field of sustainable design. He will discuss the energetic effects of buildings on humans. David Barrett, AIA, with Barrett Steele Architecture of Boulder, is a visiting lecturer at the University of Colorado’s New College of Architecture and will present his “Ecomorphic Principles.”

Robert Howard teaches horticulture at the Naropa Institute in Boulder. His landscape design firm Robert Howard Associates won the City of Boulder Xeriscape Award for public space landscaping for the Chautauqua Park Waterwise Garden. His talk, “Ecologic Landscaping,” is a contemplative approach that joins a sacred outlook with practicality. Katherine Metz, Feng Shui practitioner, certified Bau-biologist, and holder of a degree in medical sociology, will explore the seen and unseen ways the physical environment, home and workplace can nurture.

The program is \$12 for AIA and DBG members and \$14 for nonmembers. Please call 370-8020 or 370-8019 to register or request information.

DBG, DMNH present growing opportunities for school teachers

Teacher training programs for K-12 educators continue in August and September at Chatfield Arboretum.

Aug. 5 and 6, “Grasslands” will explore the history and importance of small-, mid- and tall-grass praries.

“Project WILD/Project Learning Tree” Sept. 14 and 28 will help teachers use trees, water, animals, ecosystems and cultures to teach about responsible stewardship of the environment.

Each course includes activities, hands-on explorations and numerous ideas for you to utilize in your classroom.

Both courses include graduate recertification credit. For more information contact DBG, 370-8043; to register contact Colorado School of Mines, 273-3303.

Stories inspire garden

The annual display garden west of the amphitheater has been transformed this summer to illustrate children’s storybooks. Cat in the Hat, Winnie the Pooh, Where the Wild Things Are, Peter Rabbit, Alice in Wonderland and Wizard of Oz are interpreted in topiary, annual flowers and other props prepared by DBG’s creative horticulture and maintenance department staffs.

Plants from the pages of Fowler Library

Quetzalcoatl noticed a red ant carrying a kernel. “Where did you get that corn?” he asked. Quetzalcoatl and the red ant journeyed to Food Mountain, where all the foods of the world were hidden — corn, beans, peppers and all other foods. With the help of the ant, Quetzalcoatl took some corn to the other spirits, asking “What should we do with Food Mountain?” The other spirits said, “Break it open. Give the food to the people!” The mountain was split. The Rain was jealous. He stole the food. Everything was gone! To this day the rain spirit keeps the food from Food Mountain and gives back just a little. Just a little — in exchange for human blood.

Read more about life and plants of Native Americans in these books in DBG’s Helen Fowler Library: *The Hungry Woman: Myths and Legends of the Aztecs* edited by John Bierhorst; *The World in Your Garden* by Wendell Camp; *Plant Evolution and the Origin of Crop Species* by James F. Hancock; *Green Immigrants: The Plants That Transformed America* by Claire Shaver Haughton; *Lost Crops of the Incas: Little-Known Plants of the Andes with Promise for Worldwide Cultivation*; and *Indian Givers: How the Indians of The Americas Transformed the World* by Jack Weatherford.

— Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian

June employee of the month

When an intern comes to the Gardens, it is hoped that he or she will learn more about horticulture, working in a public setting and gaining experience working in the “real world.” Jonah Bradley, who has been an intern from Denver Public School’s Career Education center for nine months, has met these goals — and more. Jonah’s knowledge and enthusiasm for plants is an inspiration for everyone who works with him. There is no job he will not tackle with a can-do and will-do attitude. While he came to the Gardens to learn, he also has taught everyone he has worked with about having a good work ethic. Thank you, Jonah.

1996 Fall Gardening Fair

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 7 & 8



Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York Street

Sponsored by

Denver Botanic Gardens — Garden Centers of Colorado Colorado — Greenhouse Growers Association

Discover why fall is a great time for gardening!

Demonstrations
Garden Center Displays
Door Prizes
Kids Activities



Garden Tours
Plant Society Experts
Free Plant Dividend for DBG Members!
DBG's Dr. Green Answers Your Questions

**From learning how to divide your perennials to gardening
with roses and water-smart perennials...
There is something for everyone at the '96 Fall Gardening Fair**

Saturday, September 7

Time	Program	DBG Location
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Members Free Plant Giveaway	Classroom B
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Designs on Science, nature make-it and take-it activities	Kids Area
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Kidding Around: Harvest Figures, a make-it and take-it activity	Kids Area
10 a.m.	Landscaping Is for the Birds! garden tour	Wingsong Garden
	Ornamental Grasses, lecture & garden tour	John C. Mitchell II Hall
11 a.m.	Garden Renovation: Putting New Life in Your Old Garden	Home Demonstration Garden
	Perennials for Newcomers	Classroom C and garden tour
noon	Perennials for Mountain Gardens	Classroom A
	Rose Care	Rose Garden
1 p.m.	Color throughout the Year	John C. Mitchell II Hall
	Saving Seeds from Your Garden	Classroom C
2 p.m.	Fall Color in Your Mixed Flower Border	Classroom C
	Water Garden Tour	Water Garden Gazebo
3 p.m.	Gardening with Native Perennials	John C. Mitchell II Hall
	Chile Pepper Garden Tour	Chile Garden
4 p.m.	Perennials for Beginners	Classroom C
	Composting Made Easy!	Classroom A

All lectures, demonstrations, tours & activities are included in DBG's standard admission fees.

1996 Fall Gardening Fair

Sunday, September 8

Time	Program	DBG Location
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Kidding Around: A Corn Husk Doll make-it and take-it activity	Kids Area
10 a.m.	Rock Alpine Garden Tour	Rock Alpine Garden
	Dividing and Transplanting Perennials, O'Fallon Perennial Walk Tour	Classroom C
11 a.m.	Fall Perennials: The Last Fling of Summer	Classroom C
	Forcing Bulbs for Indoor Beauty	Classroom A
noon	Rose Care	Rose Garden
	Dividing & Transplanting Peonies and Daylilies, Tour of collections	Classroom C
1 p.m.	Water-Smart Perennials & Natives, Water-Smart Garden Tour	John C. Mitchell II Hall
	Your Fall Herb Garden: What to Plant and What to Bring Inside	DBG Herb Garden
2 p.m.	Perennials for Beginners	John C. Mitchell II Hall
	Pruning Techniques	Classroom A
3 p.m.	Seed Saving Tips	Classroom C
	Tour Wildflowers of DBG	Lobby Court entrance

The Denver Botanic Gardens '96 Fall Gardening Fair is made possible by the generosity of the following:



Summer interns learn Front Range horticulture

5

Six college students arrived in mid-June for 10 weeks of educational enrichment and hands-on training as DBG Interns in Applied Horticulture.

Mark Rush and Julie McIntyre are training at the Gardens with two Alice Mann Owen Internships in Applied Horticulture. Rush is a horticulture student at the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, Ireland. He has worked in parks and private nurseries and was a horticultural assistant on Garnish Island, West Cork. Rush hopes to own his own landscaping company in the United States.

McIntyre is working on her master's degree in horticulture at Colorado State University. A member of the horticulture honor society, she has worked at a greenhouse and nursery in Boulder and in the greenhouses at CSU, where she conducted research on the control of thrips in greenhouses. McIntyre is interested in a career at a public gardens in public education and outreach.

Daniel Moeller and Heather Houston are studying at the Gardens with two Beatrice B. Taplin Internships in Applied Horticulture. Both are studying at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Moeller has been awarded two undergraduate research grants. He worked in the greenhouse at the university and was an instructor for Exploratory Botany, an after-school program for children in grades 1 through 5. He is interested in teaching others about horticulture and plant science.

Houston was the assistant manager in the perennials department at Garden Country and has valuable experience in vegetation sampling and plant identification through her honors thesis research and field courses at the Mountain Research station at the university. She sees the internship as an opportunity to explore the horticultural side of her interests.

Amy Burgard was awarded this year's Clara Van Schaak Phipps Internship in Applied Horticulture. She is studying botany at Humboldt State University in California. After her graduation in December she hopes to travel in Indonesia for six months. She plans to attend graduate school pursuing a degree in tropical plant pathology and then working as a professional botanist in greenhouse crop production.

Jennifer Ann Magazian is the recipient of the Gardens' Donald McIntosh Internship. She is a student of floriculture and ornamental horticulture at Cornell University, New York. Magazian has worked at a garden center in Connecticut for the past four years. She is also an active member of Cornell's horticulture club, Hortus Forum, where she participates in weekly flower and house plant sales. She hopes to expand her knowledge of landscape horticulture.

DBG's internship program receives additional support from Denver Botanic Gardens Guild, Associates of Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Chapter of Gardeners of America and other organizations and individuals. The internships offer college students an opportunity to work alongside the Gardens' professional staff. Field trips, projects and lectures round out the program of Front Range hor-



DBG summer interns (l. to r.): Jennifer Magazia, Dan Moller, Julie McIntyre, Amy Burgard, Mark Rush, Heather Houston

Sip through Western Colorado wine country

Join us for a celebration of one of the fastest growing industries in Colorado: the fifth annual Colorado Mountain Winefest 1996 in Western Colorado, Sept. 21 through 23. The Colorado Mountain Winefest is held in the vineyards and wineries in the Grand Valley area near Palisade.

The three fun-filled days will include a vineyard tour to learn how grapes are grown; opportunities to talk with Colorado vintners and viticulturists; discovering the unique arts and crafts of the regions; and, of course, sampling the fine wines of the region.

Since 1991 the federal government has officially recognized the area as a grape growing region or viticultural area. The Grand Valley's vintners bottled more than 85,000 gallons of wine in 1995 from 500 tons of grapes grown on 380 acres. Knowledgeable wine connoisseurs have expressed surprise at how great Colorado wines are. Many wines have won medals in national competitions.

The tour includes transportation via luxury motorcoach, two nights' lodging, and five meals — including a gourmet dinner with seven wines at the Crystal Cafe in Grand Junction with the owners of Plum Creek Cellars and a gala outdoor picnic at scenic Grande River Vineyards Winery.

The tour is prepared especially for Denver Botanic Gardens and Denver Museum of Natural History by TourUSA. The cost is \$315 per person (double occupancy) and \$375 for nonmembers. Call 370-8020 or 370-8019 to register or request a detailed brochure.



Fête des Fleurs



A gala evening of dining and dancing
under the stars

A major benefit for Denver Botanic Gardens

Friday, the sixth of September

Nineteen hundred and ninety-six

Half past six o'clock

Denver Botanic Gardens

Black Tie

Catering by Le Petit Gourmet

Jerry Barnett Orchestra

\$175 per person

\$250 per person Patron Level

Any amount in excess of seventy-five dollars per ticket is
tax-deductible within the limits prescribed by law.

Proceeds will support educational programming, including horticultural
therapy and community outreach at Denver Botanic Gardens.

For more information, please call Molly Williams, 303-370-8027

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$175 per person
Please reserve _____ Patron level tickets at \$250 per person
for Fête des Fleurs at Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street
Reservations are due by August 31, 1996

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Botanic Gardens Fête des Fleurs.
Your check is your reservation. Seating preferences may be listed on an
enclosed note.

Mail to:

Mrs. D. Dale Shaffer
330 Franklin Street
Denver, CO 80218

We are unable to attend but would like to support Denver Botanic
Gardens with the enclosed contribution of \$ _____

Kids kid around with fall harvest figures

Some adults have memories of creating corn
husk dolls, traditional Native American represen-
tations of the corn spirit to ensure a plentiful har-
vest. In England, the dolls were made with the
last sheaf of wheat in the fields, then saved until
the following year when a new one was made.

Join the education department from 10 a.m. to
5 p.m. for Kidding Around during the Fall
Gardening Fair, Sept. 7 and 8, to create your own
harvest figures and some new family memories.

Kidding Around is free with admission.

Sunflower Fest...

(Continued from page 1)

Family activities

Saturday, Kori Dower, Navajo, will teach chil-
dren how to make and decorate their own piece
of pottery. Sunday, Dory Roan Horse will lead
children in making traditional Indian shields.
Both craft projects are in the education building
classrooms from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Families can enjoy a traditional American
Indian puppet show by Red Dawn Foster each
day from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in John C. Mitchell II
Hall. Red Dawn Foster represents the Lakota,
Cheyenne and Navajo tribes.

The telling of myths and legends is an integral
part of tribal life. Oral legends are based on
Native American traditions and are used to
instruct children in moral lessons and history.
Rick Williams, Lakota and Northern Cheyenne,
will tell these stories in Mitchell Hall 4 to 5 p.m.
Saturday, and Arizona Winters, Hopi, will tell
Indian theater stories on Sunday from 4 to 5.

Visitors also can tour DBG's Inca, Aztec and
Southwestern Native American Peoples' gardens.
Susan Johnson, Arikara-Hidatsa tribe, will
explain modern and ancient crops and some tech-
niques used to grow them in the arid Southwest.
The gardens feature utilitarian cultivated and wild
plants that are integral to tribal cultural activities.

Shoppers will find a variety of sunflower
crafts and decorations, and authentic American
Indian food will be available. An Indian farmers
market will sell different kinds of corn, chiles and
flowers.

Since parking is very limited around the Gar-
dens, plan to park at DBG's satellite parking lot
at the Glendale Target store, 4301 E. Virginia
Ave., and ride the Gardens' free shuttle buses to
and from the festival. All bus riders will receive a
free DBG admission pass they can use at a later
date. Buses run approximately every 30 minutes.

The festival is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.
Cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for people 65 and older
and youths 6 to 15. Children 5 and younger and
DBG members are admitted free. For more infor-
mation call 370-8187.

From your membership office

Members receive yearly plant

The annual members free plant dividend distribution is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7 and 8, in Classroom B at 1005 York St. during the Fall Gardening Fair.

This year members can again choose from an interesting assortment of unusual bulbs from Holland and other plants propagated by DBG staff member Nick Snakenberg: shrubs, house plants and perennials from the new O'Fallon Perennial Walk, the Water-Smart Garden and the Rock Alpine Garden.

Two especially exciting items will be the hardiest California fuchsia, *Zauschneria garrettii*, from alpine elevations in Wyoming, Idaho and Utah. Since it blooms much earlier in the season than the California and Oregon species of *zauschneria*, it should be a good plant for mountain gardens. And this will be the first time a hardy, everblooming gazania, *Gazania linearis*, has been offered. It was originally obtained from South Africa by Panayoti Kelaidis on his 1994 expedition to the Drakensberg Mountains.

A complete list will be published in the next GTN, and a culture sheet will be available on the day of the giveaway. Take a few minutes before or after obtaining your plants to wander through the fair, which will be going on throughout the Gardens.

Kids will love Japanese stories

Make plans for Saturday, Aug. 3, when musical storyteller Lindy Soon Curry will delight members with the Japanese story, "The Magic Tea Kettle." Curry also will explain the meaning of the traditional Japanese tea ceremony, accompanying herself on the harp.

Following the stories, kids will have the opportunity to create their own Japanese butterfly and enjoy tea and special refreshments.

Due to limited space in the Tea House, three story times will be offered, at 10, 10:40 and 11:15 a.m. The charge is \$3 per person and reservations may be made by calling 370-8018. Please note: This event is not appropriate for children younger than 4.

Rise and shine with a summer breakfast in the Gardens!

Members at the Botanist Club level and above are invited to a continental breakfast and early morning tour of the Gardens Saturday, Aug. 17.

The breakfast will be on the Ruth Porter Waring House terrace at 8 a.m. Following the breakfast, volunteer guides will lead tours of the Gardens.

Reservations are limited and required. Please call 370-8018.

Tributes

In memory of William Bolis

Melanie Grant

In memory of Phyllis Clinger

Virginia Barber

Joyce and Jerry Sempson

In memory of James A. Greenfield

Donna Curtis

In memory of Robert Kosanke

Joedy Arnold

Paula McMullen Boyle

Beverly Capron

Ellen and Maurice Dulaney

Maxine Fennell

Dorothy Gorai

Mr. and Mrs. George Masunaga

Lucille Wagner

In memory of Dale D. Munger

Dale Munger Estate

In memory of Sue Ellen Roser

Rich Anderson

Aileen Arnoldy

Jim and Dee Bond

John Buckner

Garen Burkhardt

Sharon Carlson

Geneva Corace

Kathy Daly

Gay Dicus

Beth Farr

Linda Fox

Sue Giovanini

Mrs. Franklin W. Harper

Sherril Hixon

Pat Hynes

Marsha Johnson

Thomas Keefe

Bobbie Knorr

Terry Kuhn

Sharon Morgan

Linda Morley

Ted Newell

Jill Patterson

Bill Richardson

Kathy Rife

Trudy Rozas

Kay Sandler

Overland High School

Sandra Seale

Heather Shull

Grant Stevens

Sherry Swanson

Ted Tsumura

Carolyn Tunnell

Christine Wimmer

Darrah Yates

Phil and Judy Zimmerman

In memory of Elfrieda Schmidt

Mr. and Mrs. George Masunaga

In memory of Joan S. Slump

Bill and Rosalind Barnes

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Corrin

Betty DeVol

Marianne Martin

Elaine Saxen

Mark & Sheryl Spradling

In honor of Lucille Downer

Joan Boatright

St. John's Cathedral

In honor of Solange Gignac's retirement

Shirley Epstein

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Newell Grant

Helen P. Grant

Melanie Grant

In honor of Mrs. Thomas E. Taplin

Mr. John Evans

Birthdays ... anniversaries ... memorials ... You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution.

New Supporters

Special thanks to DBG Four Seasons members

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons members who began or renewed their membership during the second quarter of 1996:

Mrs. Katherine Willard Beise

Mr. E.R. Bigelow

Mr. Peter H. Blair, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Cannon

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Danos

Mrs. Richard M. Davis

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Griffith

Mrs. J. Ramsay Harris

Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Kauvar

Mr. and Mrs. William C. Kurtz, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick R. Mayer

Mr. Michael J. Renth

Dr. Conrad M. Riley

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Sheridan

Ms. Fay Shwayder

Ms. Kyla Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. L. Clark Tierney, Jr.

Miss Janet M. Wierman

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Woods, Sr.

Thanks to DBG's 2nd quarter 1996 corporate members

Thanks to the following companies who joined or renewed their support during the second quarter of 1996:

Great-West Life

Keyline Graphics

Wild Flowers

August

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Inside this Green Thumb News

DBG's Summer Series in the amphitheater ends with four evenings of theater.
page 2

Mycological society collects and identifies mushrooms for its annual DBG fair.
page 3

Schoolteachers train at DBG and Chatfield.
page 4

College students work and learn with DBG internships.
page 5

Members can pick up their yearly free plant during the Fall Gardening Fair.
page 7

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Coming Up:

August

- 1-11 "Glass at the Gardens" Glass Arts Show
- 2 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 3 Japanese Tea Ceremonies & Stories —
for members & their families
- 5 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
** Gardening with Natives*
** Iridescent Buzzing Bombers*
- 6 ** Extending Season: Fall Vegetable Garden*
Stalking Herbs at the Gardens II
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 7 Summer Series Concert: Michael & Sharon
Doucet and Friends — *for families*
- 8 ** Acrylics for the Botanical Illustrator*
Denver Rose Society meeting
- 9 Summer Series Concert: Tuck & Patti
- 10 Mile High Daylily Society Show & Sale
Gentian Foray at South Park
Reptiles & Amphibians
Japanese Tea Ceremony XIII
Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging
Center meeting
- 11 *Japanese Tea Ceremony XIV*
Tuscan Hilltop Picnic
Colorado Water Garden Society meeting
- 12 *Summer Flower Arranging III*

- 13 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society
meeting
** Mushroom Workshop*
- 14 Sunset Garden Stroll
** Beyond Xeriscape*
- 16 Summer Series Concert: Wind Machine
- 17 Breakfast & Early Tour —
Botanist level members & above
"Garden Safari": Denver Zoo's
100th Birthday Celebration
Let Nature Teach us
Photographic Painting
Japanese Tea Ceremony XV
- 18 Colorado Mycological Society
Mushroom Fair
Aquatic Plant Walk
Japanese Tea Ceremony XVI
- 20 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 22 Summer Series Concert: Leon Redbone
African Violet Society of Denver meeting
- 23 *Native Tallgrass Prairie*
- 24, 25 Sunflower Harvest Festival
- 28 Sunset Garden Stroll
Herb Society of America meeting
- 29 Compass Theatre Company:
Cyrano de Bergerac

- 30 Compass Theatre Company:
A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 31 Rocky Mountain African Violet
Society workshop

September

- 2 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 3 New Members Party: Water Garden Tour
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 4 Compass Theatre Company:
Cyrano de Bergerac
- 5 Compass Theatre Company:
A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 6 Fete des Fleurs
- 7 Gardeners of America Plant & Produce Sale
Designs on Science at DBG
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 8 Colorado Water Garden Society meeting
- 7, 8 Fall Gardening Fair
Members Plant Dividend Days
Kidding Around: "Harvest Figures"
- 9 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 10 Colorado Cactus & Succulent
Society meeting
- 12 Denver Rose Society meeting
- 14 Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

September 1996



Writer Bender to speak on 'Passalong Plants'



DBG's Bonfils-Stanton Lecture Series continues Wednesday, Sept. 25, with "Passalong Plants" by Steve Bender, senior writer for *Southern Living* magazine and co-author of *Passalong Plants* which was named best written garden book of 1994 by the Garden Writers Association of America.

Passalong plants have survived in gardens for decades by being handed from one person to another. These botanical heirlooms, such as flowering almond, blackberry lily and night-blooming cereus, usually can't be found in neighborhood garden centers. Often the only way to obtain a passalong plant is to beg a piece from another gardener.

Passalong plants elicit nostalgia. They are the plants we grew up with, whether in a friend's or in the family's garden. They tie us to our past: old people, young people, memories, shared experiences — and shared plants. Passalongs are flowers, trees, shrubs, vines and bulbs that we grew up with, fell in love with, can't forget.

Steve's blend of fact, imagery and rollicking humor has made him one of America's most popular garden writers. He has been writing for *Southern Living* since 1983. He previously worked at Homestead Gardens, one of the country's largest retail nurseries. His special interests include gardening, travel, astronomy, playing the stock market and consuming fine wines and beers after his investments crash through the floor.

He holds degrees in both history and ornamental horticulture. His second book *Callaway Gardens — Legacy of A Dream*, was published this May. Steve has contributed articles to *Horticulture*, *American Horticulturist*, *Southern Accents*, *Taylor's Guide to Gardening in the South* and Jodie Foster's *Home for the Holidays Cookbook*.

This lecture series has been generously supported by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation since 1987. Member tickets are \$8 per lecture and nonmembers pay \$12. Lectures are in John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St. Please call the registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019, to register or present questions.

Please note that Helen Fowler Library will remain open from 6 to 7 p.m. the evening of the lecture. The Gardens' Gift Shop carries books by our guest speaker who will autograph your purchases after the lecture.

Fall fair bubbles with science, craft fun for kids

Youth education specialist Geri Warfield has planned plenty of activities to enthrall kids during DBG's Fall Gardening Fair.

"Bubbles and Birds and Bromeliads" is a program Saturday, Sept. 7, that looks at natural objects through both scientific and artistic eyes. It is a National Science and Technology Week "Designs on Science" activity that focuses on designs in the environment, from bird nest construction to tree shapes.

Kids will create crazy plants, see how seeds travel, investigate interactions between plants and animals and explore exotic plant adaptations. Experts from the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver Zoo and Collage Children's Museum will be on hand with other activities related to science in every day life. The program is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday the education department will lead another in its series of "Kidding Around" hands-on craft activities. Adults may remember creating corn husk dolls, traditional representations of a corn spirit to ensure a plentiful harvest. In England, the dollies were made with the last sheaf of wheat in the fields. In this "Kidding Around" activity you and your family can create your own harvest figures and some future family memories.

Tours, demonstrations and make-it and take-it activities for all ages are planned all during the Fall Gardening Fair. They're included in the Gardens' regular admission fees, free for members.

Green Thumb News September 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, edited by Larry Latta, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Deadline for Nov. issue: Sept. 16

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
*Mon. and Tues., 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
Wed. through Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8000
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

I'm most pleased to report that the Denver Planning Board gave its overwhelming support to three major improvement projects — the Romantic Gardens and Temperate Greenhouse, the Children's Garden and improvements to our Education Building — at the board's Aug. 7 meeting.

The Planning Board's favorable recommendation has been forwarded to the city's Manager of Parks and Recreation, who will make the final decision. The manager gave her preliminary approval to the projects earlier this year.

These major improvements to our York Street gardens will enable us to substantially enhance the quality of our members' and visitors' experiences, maintain our levels of visitation in an increasingly competitive marketplace, and better serve the children of the region who will be tomorrow's members and supporters.

The Romantic Gardens will include a Fragrance Garden that will stimulate the sense of smell as well as the visual senses, and a Courtyard Garden for the display of container gardens.

The Temperate Greenhouse, a structure of about 2,500 square feet, will house permanent flower beds as well as some container plants, including less hardy varieties. The greenhouse will increase the diversity of our plant displays, especially during the winter months.

The magnificent Waterway Garden will feature a long, narrow shimmering pool that will border a path flanked by a series of specimen trees selected for their beauty and architectural forms.

The modifications to our education building will provide for more classrooms, increased space for botanical research, and additional office and storage space. The changes will enable us to offer indoor food service, and a new atrium will provide additional room for horticultural displays.

The Children's Garden will be an educational feature especially designed to interest youngsters in the world of plants. It will feature a Discover Building that will include teaching, laboratory and demonstration space, and the surrounding gardens will introduce kids to the natural world in fun and meaningful ways.

These improvements, which will be financed by about \$9.5 million in private funds, will be major additions to one of the city's most popular amenities. Coupled with projects approved by the city earlier this year — the renovation of our Conservatory, the expansion of the Gift Shop and the addition of badly needed new parking space — these improvements will confirm the Gardens' status as a world-class facility and will truly enrich the experience of members and visitors alike.

I want to thank all of you who have supported these improvements and assure you that we will keep you informed of our progress as these projects move ahead.

—Richard H. Daley, Executive Director

Paintings sought for '97 Plant Sale poster

Denver Botanic Gardens is soliciting entries in its 1997 Plant and Book Sale poster art contest. Deadline is Jan. 6, 1997.

The winning artist will receive \$1,000 and 200 copies of the limited edition poster. The winning work will be auctioned for the benefit of the Gardens during the sale May 8 to 10. The contest is open to all Colorado residents.

Entries must be the following media: oil, acrylic, egg tempera, watercolor or pastel. They should have a botanical or horticultural subject, and must be 30 inches by 30 inches or smaller.

Entries must be submitted in slide form. An entry will consist of one color slide of the work and a completed application form. Each artist may submit up to three entries. An entry fee of \$5 per slide will help defray costs associated with the contest.

Complete rules, information and entry forms are available in DBG's lobby court, or call (303) 370-8018. Posters of previous years' winners can be viewed in the DBG Gift Shop.

National conservation center meets at DBG

The Center for Plant Conservation will hold its annual meeting at Denver Botanic Gardens Oct. 3 to 5. DBG is one of 25 botanic gardens and arboreta, collectively known as the Center for Plant Conservation. It is headquartered at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Gardens in the network have their own approaches to conservation, but share one common mission: to build a living national collection of endangered plants.

Participants will come from institutions as far away as Hawaii and Florida to attend the meeting for an opportunity to share ideas, progress reports and other information concerning their conservation programs. Early arrivals will be able to tour the National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins, the repository of genetic material for plants in the United States.

Keep the Gardens flourishing with annual gift

3

In the July issue of *Green Thumb News* we reported on the Leadership Campaign, a \$7-million fund drive supported by many members and friends of the Gardens. The Leadership Campaign will fund a number of renovations and new construction projects that will increase tremendously the quality of programs and exhibits the Gardens can offer in the future.

While we plan for the future and look ahead to great new things, we must also take care of the Gardens today. Many friends of the Gardens support our ongoing operations. Members can support day-to-day operations with a gift to the Gardens when they renew their annual dues.

These contributions help the Gardens carry out its mission: to encourage and increase the public's enjoyment and knowledge of plants and horticulture.

For example, a gift of \$50 supports a day in the field for our research interns, \$100 supports "Dr. Green" for a day of answering plant and gardening related questions, \$500 underwrites a day of "Kidding Around," and \$1,000 admits more than 500 schoolchildren for a fun, learning filled tour of the Gardens.

In the coming months all DBG members will be invited to share in the Gardens' present operations with a gift (in addition to your annual dues) through our annual appeal. Each gift, whatever the amount, is important, for taken together they provide the extra measure of support that assures continued excellence for the Gardens' ongoing programs and activities.

Gifts for unrestricted use are especially helpful because they allow DBG the discretion to use them where the funds will do the most good — to support education programs (for children, adults and teachers), horticulture (to ensure beautiful and well-designed gardens and displays), visitor services, or other programs that members and the public enjoy.

Contributions for current use also can be restricted to a particular purpose. Whether one is interested in a certain garden, the library, education programs or research, to name but a few, ample opportunities for giving are available.

DBG's annual appeal will run from October through December this year. A letter campaign will invite all members' participation and support. With your support we can keep the Gardens flourishing today and into the future.

—Molly Williams, Director of Membership and Development

Children's favorite stories inspire gardens

Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail were good bunnies and gathered blackberries. But Peter, who was naughty, ran to Mr. McGregor's garden.

—*Peter Rabbit, by Beatrix Potter*

Imagine a place where children can see their favorite stories interpreted in topiaries and other plants and props. A small green Toto frisking along the yellow brick road toward Oz. Peter Rabbit right there among the cabbages and carrots, with Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail nearby. March Hare in an Alice in Wonderland tea garden. A topiary Winnie the Pooh dipping honey in the "100 aker wood." The tropical forest inside a child's imagination Where the Wild Things Are. A super-size Cat in the Hat amid very Dr. Seussish plants.

Denver Botanic Gardens horticulturists have taken their cue from plants in these stories to design a new display garden that is sure to elicit recognition by children and stir the memories of adults.



Two college students joined DBG's research staff for the summer to gain practical skills in field work, data recording and horticulture.

Melissa Isaacson (l.) is an environmental science major at the University of Denver, where she is the assistant director of recycling services. After graduate school she plans to work in forest management.

Kirsten Heckmann (r.) is a biology major at Colorado College, Colorado Springs. In 1995 she did field and lab research under Dr. Sylvia Kelso on the round-leaf four o'clock, *Oxybaphus rotundifolius*, one of the plants studied by DBG for the Center for Plant Conservation.

Isaacson and Heckmann have accompanied Carol Dawson, DBG's manager of research, and Mark Minton, research assistant, into areas of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah for census and habitat studies and have assisted with laboratory and computer work at the Gardens.

Contributions of many help Community Gardens thrive

Members are invited to take a stroll through the Community Gardens on their next visit to DBG. The 250 plots, gardened by individuals who rent the spaces on an annual basis, are luxuriant with late summer produce and flowers.

Morrison Community Garden is at the north end of the York/Josephine parking lot. Waring and Gaylord community gardens are between York and Gaylord streets north of DBG's conservatory and library.

Many people and businesses have contributed to the community gardens to make the 1996 season exceptionally successful. The gardeners have given a phenomenal amount of volunteer time and energy, mulching the paths and cleaning up old plantings. Their love and attention shows in the beautiful gardens.

The Denver Botanic Garden Guild donated new signs to grace the entrances of the three community gardens, a compost bin system in the Morrison Garden and new water hoses. Factory Surplus, in the LoDo district, donated two large, top-of-the-line coolers to get a food donation program underway. Extra produce from the gardens is stored in the coolers and picked up by Project Angel Heart and Food Bank of the Rockies.

Denver Tree Service delivered loads of wood chips to pave the garden paths. Shaphard Garden Supply donated seeds of heirloom, varietal vegetables and edible flowers. Magic Tortoise Graphics in Boulder designed the flier for the July scarecrow contest. Licks Ice Cream provided ice cream for the July Garden Celebration and Ice Cream Social, and Boston Markets provided the toppings.

You're invited to drop by and see the wonderful changes made by all this generosity.

July employee of the month

DBG employees recognized Loddie Dolinski as July employee of the month, citing three outstanding attributes. First is her commitment to the Gardens, her love and knowledge of roses, perennials and herbs, and her willingness to share her love and knowledge with both staff members and visitors. Second is her enthusiasm in assisting with lectures, symposia, special events and activities such as the annual Associates luncheon. And last, but not least, she is recognized for the leadership she possesses on or off the clock.

From the pages of Fowler Library:

Saffron and colchicums

Two kinds of lovely bulb plants bloom in the fall: autumn crocuses and colchicums. They have similar appearances and both have long histories in the world of plant lore.

The most famous autumn-blooming crocus is saffron (*Crocus sativus*). It has been esteemed for thousands of years as a spice, a dye, a fragrance and a love potion. In the Middle Ages saffron was so valued it could be used as collateral instead of jewels. Henry VIII was so enamoured of saffron as a spice that he forbade its other uses. Now the importance of saffron has dwindled and it is only marginally used as a very exotic spice.

Colchicums have a darker history, but just as long. Greek slaves ate the bulbs, not to kill themselves, but to appear too sick to work. Medea used her magical powers to restore youth to her favorites and she poisoned her enemies with the roots of colchicum. Even in Victorian flower language the colchicum can symbolize "My best days are past."

Read more about flower symbolism at Helen Fowler Library in the following books: *The Lore & Legends of Flowers* by Robert Crowell; *The Language of Flowers: A Book of Victorian Floral Sentiments* by Kathleen Gips; and *Garden Flower Folklore* by Laura Martin.

Some mail order sources of autumn crocus and colchicums are:

Daffodil Mart, 7463 Heath Trail, Gloucester, VA 22939 (800-255-2852); McClure & Zimmerman, P.O. Box 368, Friesland, WI 53935 (414-326-4220); Potterton & Martin, The Cottage Nursery, Moortown Road, Nettleton, Caistor, Lincs., England LN7 6HX.

DBG program certifies Rocky Mtn. gardeners

With the main garden season winding down, now is the time to take classes to improve your gardening and perhaps change your life.

DBG's Rocky Mountain Gardening Certificate Program offers you an opportunity to learn Rocky Mountain horticulture in depth. Whether you are interested in preparing for an entry level position in a new field, satisfying requirements for advanced or specialized training, or just exploring for your own enjoyment, the gardening certificate program will help you meet your needs.

The program is accredited by the University of Colorado, Denver, and endorsed by the Colorado Nursery Association. Managed by Denver Botanic Gardens' adult education director Paula Ogilvie, it offers classes throughout the year, and students may start any season.

Program requirements and classes are listed in the fall Education Programs brochure. Call the registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019, for further information or to register.

Love begonias? Help form new society

Local begonia aficionados are seeking like-minded growers to help form a local chapter of the American Begonia Society. The society will study, grow and promote the family *Begoniaceae*, one of the few major groups of plants not represented in Colorado by its own club.

The begonia family is extremely diverse, both in homeland and in flower, leaf and plant form. It contains some of the most beautiful plants on earth, with leaves less than one-half inch long to giants, 20 inches in diameter, in every color known in the plant kingdom — including metallic silver and gold.

If you are interested in meeting with others to organize a begonia society, please call Andy Conely, 455-7845, and leave your name, address and phone number where you can be reached both days and evenings.

Black swallowtail spotted at Chatfield

Three hours of net swinging in the July butterfly census at Chatfield Arboretum scooped up a new species for the Arboretum, the black swallowtail (*Papilio rutulus*). In all, the butterfly counters caught, identified and then released a record 278 individuals of 21 species.

Although not a rare insect in this region, the black swallowtail has eluded the eyes of Arboretum census takers until this fifth annual count. Most commonly encountered species were the cabbage white (*Pieris rapae*) and wood nymph (*Cyrcyonis pegala*). Among the more interesting and scarce butterflies counted were a field crescent (*Phyciodes campestris*), an ochre ringlet (*Coenonympha ochracea*) and a Logan skipper (*Atrytone logan*).

The census by 20 mostly amateur fun lovers was under the guidance of Mike Weissmann, curator of insects at the Butterfly Pavilion and Insect Center, which cosponsored the event, and Marsha Staughton, DBG's Chatfield Arboretum naturalist.

Cemetery tour features prominent women

The lives and final resting places of distinguished Colorado women will be the focus of a tour at Fairmount Cemetery Saturday, Sept. 28. The 90-minute tour will be led by JoAn Cullen, who has organized similar tours for the DBG education program. You can reserve a space by calling 399-0692. Refreshments will be served.



Mary Osborn (l), co-chair, and Katherine Whitcomb, chair, of the 1996 Fete des Fleurs hosted the Fete kick-off luncheon in June. The gala black-tie evening of al fresco dinner and dancing at the Gardens is Friday, Sept. 6, at 6:30 p.m. Call 370-8027 for more information.

Pumpkin Fest improves parking for 1996

DBG's eighth annual Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As in years past, a variety of pumpkins and squash will be available for you to harvest from the four-and-one-half acre pumpkin patch. Food vendors, craft booths, hay rack rides and children's activities will thrill festival-goers of all ages.

New parking arrangements will relieve congestion for entering and exiting the festival.

Admission is free to children 5 and younger. For DBG members 6 and older it is \$2. For non-members it is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 6 through 15. Watch next month's *Green Thumb News* for complete information.

House tour to benefit Dora Moore School

Sunday, Oct. 13, the Dora Moore School PTSA will hold its 17th annual house tour to support projects and programs at the Capitol Hill elementary school. The tour will showcase historic homes in the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Humboldt Street, known as "Humboldt Island."

Tickets are available at the Ninth and Corona King Soopers, Joy Pharmacy and the school office. For information: 831-7044 or 830-8993.

Special thanks...

To those generous members and friends who have supported Denver Botanic Gardens’ Leadership Campaign with a gift or pledge in 1996. We apologize that the following names were not listed in the July issue with the other donors. The support of the following additional donors is greatly appreciated.

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Members receive free plant during fall fair

Pick up a free plant — one plant per membership — Saturday, Sept. 7 or Sunday, Sept. 8, when you visit the Fall Gardening Fair. It’s your annual membership dividend.

Choices are listed below. A descriptive care sheet will be available at the fair:

For Outdoors

- Sunset hyssop, *Agastache rupestris*
- Spotti cheddar pink, *Dianthus* ‘Spotti’
- Pink Panda strawberry, *Fragaria* ‘Pink Panda’
- Dragon’s claw willow, *Salix matsudana* ‘Tortuosa’
- California fuchsia, *Zauschneria garrettii*
- Mixed bulb packages

For Indoors

- Flamingo flower, *Anthurium* ‘Corazon’
- Patience plant, *Impatiens repens*
- Panda plant, *Kalanchoe pumila*
- *Peperomia clusiaefolia*
- *Peperomia clusiaefolia* ‘Variegata’
- Moth orchid, *Phalaenopsis* hybrid
- Moses-in-a-cradle, *Rhoeo discolor*
- Kitchen herb plants

Waxman U. offers free macro photo class

Photographers thinking of entering Denver Botanic Gardens’ 1997 “Picture a Great Garden” photo contest can take advantage of a free class in macro flower photography by a professional from Robert Waxman University. The instructor will provide tips to improve photography skills, then students who bring their cameras can practice in the gardens or the tropical conservatory.

The class is Sunday, Sept. 29, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in DBG’s John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St. Photo shoot opportunities will be from 4:30 to 6:30. There is no fee, but pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Call 370-8018 to reserve a spot.

Deadline for the photo contest is Friday, Feb. 14. Photos will be displayed at the Gardens March 21 to 23.



BirdHaus Bash People’s Choice winner, Country Store by Emmett (“Bud”) Young

From your membership office

Fall fair full of gardening ideas

DBG members get into the Fall Gardening Fair free. That's two days of free ideas for your garden, two days of free fun for your family and two days of free advice from the experts. This makes the Fall Gardening Fair an event that you won't want to miss. Drop by the DBG membership booth while you're at the fair and let them know what you think of this fabulous event.

New members tour water gardens

New Denver Botanic Gardens members are invited to a wine and cheese party on the banks of the water display garden Tuesday, Sept. 3, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. DBG water garden curatorial staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and to lead tours.

Reservations are required: 370-8018.

A behind-the-scenes adventure

Members at the Arbor Circle level of membership and above are invited to attend a behind-the-scenes exploration of DBG's production greenhouses on Wednesday, Sept. 18. Tours will begin at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided in the Lobby Court. For information or to make a reservation, please call 370-8018.

Goblins are lurking

Denver Botanic Gardens will once again become a haunted habitat for Halloween monsters young and old on Sunday, Oct. 27. Members and their families are invited to the 1996 version of Goblins in the Gardens to explore the haunted jungle trail and to enjoy fang-tastic food, creepy crafts, eerie entertainment and much more.

Look for your Goblins in the Gardens invitation in the mail. Reservations are required and must be limited. Tickets are \$5. Children 2 and younger are free. Members can reserve their spooky spot by calling 370-8187 after Oct. 1, or by mail, addressed to Goblins in the Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206. Again this year families may choose between two times to attend: 1 to 3 p.m. or 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities are available for this fun event; please call 370-8049 for information.

Shops offer discounts to upper members

Merchants of high-quality gardening products are offering substantial discounts to Denver Botanic Gardens members who are at the Botanist Club (\$120), Perennial Partners (\$500) and Four Seasons (\$1,000 and above) levels.

Birdsall & Co.

10 percent discount on Colorado's most complete selection of garden tools, on garden ornaments, fountains and select nursery stock. Considered "one of the finest garden shops in the country." 1540 S. Broadway, Denver, 303-722-2535

Bouquets

20 percent discount on creative floral arrangements, topiary and bonsai plants. 2029 E. 13th Avenue; also in LoDo at 1525 15th Street, Denver, 303-333-5500

Englewood Garden Center

20 percent discount on bedding plants, perennials, flowering and foliage plants, gift items and plant accessories. 3446 S. Emerson, Englewood, 303-789-0567

Fantasy Orchids

20 percent discount available in the new retail facility — and well worth a visit! Free advice on selecting "the ultimate houseplant" — easy to grow with long-lasting flowers. 830 W. Cherry St., Louisville, 303-666-5432

Smith & Hawken

20 percent discount on non-sale items in the Cherry Creek North retail store. Same standards of high-quality and environmentally friendly products as available for years through catalog sales. 268 Detroit Street, Denver, 303-329-6938

Wild Flowers: At Home With Nature

10 percent discount on entire inventory of nature-oriented essentials for home and patio living, garden books, fountains and houseplants. Voted "Best Gardener's Shangri-la" 1996 by Westword. 1201 Madison St., Denver, 303-333-4050

THE DENVER POST

Corporate Friend of the Gardens

Denver Botanic Gardens is proud to have *The Denver Post* as the season sponsor of the Summer Concert Series. As Colorado's largest and only statewide newspaper, *The Post* is committed to promoting arts, music and theater throughout Denver and the state.

From Denver Botanic Gardens to Civic Center Park, the eastern plains to the western slope, more people turn to *The Denver Post* every day for information about their favorite artists and events. DBG is happy that its Summer Concert Series was featured in *The Post* for its readers.

Park Meadows picks DBG as new partner

Park Meadows, Colorado's newest shopping destination, made a gift of \$10,000 to the Gardens in July as a symbol of support and as a first step toward establishing a partnership with the Gardens.

Park Meadows and its parent company the Hahn Company have indicated a strong belief in community involvement and a commitment to Colorado culture, families and education. The Gardens is honored to be among the organizations the company is supporting. We look forward to building a meaningful and lasting relationship with Park Meadows and the Hahn Company.

Tributes

In memory of Joan S. Slump

Ms. H. Jean Hess

In memory of Phillip "Tony" Rotello

Rocky Mountain Seed Company

In memory of Frank Dardano

Rocky Mountain Seed Company

In memory of Valerie Kay Roder

Friends of the Arapahoe County Dept. of Social Services

Birthdays ... anniversaries ... memorials ... You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution.

September

September

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October

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Winning artist of Plant and Book Sale poster art will receive \$1,000.
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Sprouting begonia society looking for members.
page 5

It's time for members to receive their annual plant dividend.
page 6

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909 York Street
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Address correction requested

Coming Up:

September

- 2 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
- 3 New Members Party: Water Garden Tour
Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 4 Theater in the Gardens:
Cyrano de Bergerac
- 5 Theater in the Gardens:
A Midsummer Night's Dream
- 6 Fete des Fleurs
Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 7 Gardeners of America Plant & Produce Sale
Designs on Science at DBG
Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 7, 8 Fall Gardening Fair
Members Plant Dividend Days
Kidding Around: "Harvest Figures"
- 9 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 10 Colorado Cactus & Succulent
Society meeting
** Beginning Botanical Drawing I, II & III*
- 12 Denver Rose Society meeting
- 14 Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging
Center meeting
Japanese Tea Ceremonies I
- 14, 15 3 Gs Gesneriad Show & Sale
- 15 *Japanese Tea Ceremonies II*
- 17 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
Wonders of Antarctica

- 18 Behind-the-Scenes Tour —
Arbor Circle level members & above
Norty American Rock Garden Society
Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting
** Trees & Shrubs for the Front Range*
- 19 Fall Bonsai Workshop
Some Like It Hot
- 21 ** Applied Plant Taxonomy*
- 21, 22 John Fielder: Art of Seeing
- 21-23 Fifth Annual Colorado Mountain
Winefest
- 24 ** Early Spring Garden*
- 25 Bonfils-Stanton Lecture:
Steve Bender, "Passalong Plants"
Herb Society of America meeting
- 26 Gardeners of America meeting
- 28 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society workshop
Propagating Perennials
Star Camping
Simply Lavender
- 30 ** Botany for Gardeners*
** Drawing from Nature*

October

- 1 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 3 *Bat Ecology*
- 3-5 Center for Plant Conservation
annual meeting
- 4 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum

- 6 *Vegetarian Soups and Pastas*
- 7 Free Day at Denver Botanic Gardens
** Beginning Perennials*
** Natural Style Flower Arranging*
- 8 Colorado Cactus Society meeting
- 9 ** Ornamental Grasses*
- 10 Denver Rose Society meeting
** Beginning Bonsai*
** Beyond Phalaenopsis*
** Autumn Antics in Your Garden*
** Introduction to Horticultural Therapy*
- 12 *Windowsill Herb Garden*
Pumpkin Festival at Chatfield Arboretum
Kidding Around: Colorful Corn at
Chatfield Arboretum
American Iris Society Region 20 meeting
- 12, 13 Denver Orchid Society Show & Sale
- 14 Colorado Mycological Society meeting
- 15 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
Fall Garden Roundup
** Winterize Your Rose Garden*
- 16 North American Rock Garden Society
Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting
- 19 Rocky Mountain African Violet
Council Fall Sale
Pioneer Graves at Fairmount Cemetery
Weave a Market Basket
- 21 ** Unusual Usual Flowers*

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

October 1996



Chatfield Pumpkin Patch is ready for big festival

Since April, staff and volunteers at Chatfield Arboretum have been busy preparing for the Arboretum's grand fall event, Denver Botanic Gardens' eighth annual Pumpkin Festival, set for Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The report from Chatfield: the Pumpkin Patch is ready.

Throughout the growing season the four and one-half-acre field received weekly maintenance and care to ensure a large crop of pumpkins and gourds. Organic fertilizer, pest control and hand weeding have paid off in the best Pumpkin Patch ever. Mother Nature assisted by sparing the plants a soggy spring and by providing a cool late summer to allow the soil to retain its irrigated refreshment.

Denver Water, Chatfield State Park and the Colorado Department of Transportation have assisted the Arboretum staff in providing additional parking this year on the southeast edge of the property. The Front Range Antique Power Association will run free hayrack shuttles from the new parking area and from the original lots on the north side of Deer Creek.

The enthusiastic staff of KOOL Radio, media sponsor of the event, once again will spice up the atmosphere with music. This year more food vendors will offer a variety of items for your taste buds, and additional educational programs will please serious gardeners.

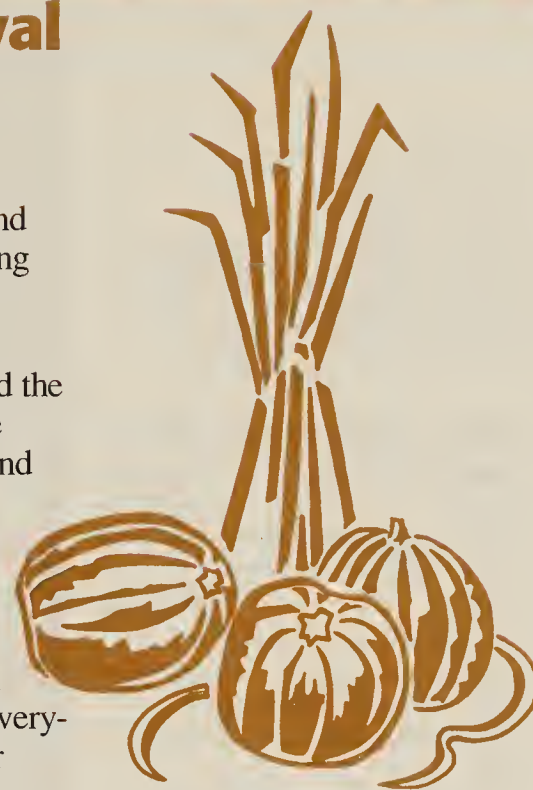
Volunteers and local craft vendors will sell their goods, and free children's games and crafts will keep you and your family occupied before and after exploring the Pumpkin Patch. We encourage everyone to seek out the photo booth for a family snapshot, and drop by the information booth with your members-only coupon to be eligible for give-aways.

Festival goers are asked to leave pets at home, but should consider bringing a wheelbarrow or wagon — some of the pumpkins are large! Comfortable walking shoes are suggested.

Admission to the festival is free for children 5 and younger. For DBG members 6 and older it is \$2. For nonmembers it is \$2 for children 6 through 15, and \$4 for adults.

An additional free activity for children during the Pumpkin Festival is the Kidding Around program "Colorful Corn" from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., where they will create colorful corn necklaces to wear.

For more information on the Pumpkin Festival, call 303-973-3705.



Wildflowers, native plants tamed in symposium

Members are invited to learn how to bring to their home landscapes the beauty of native flowers — to create a sense of the wild in a small corner or in an entire yard — in a symposium called "Wildflowers Tamed: Landscaping with Wildflowers and Natives" Saturday, Nov. 9, in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Five speakers will load you with idea-inspiring information during a full day of presentations.

"Landscaping with Wildflowers" by Don Eversal, owner of Beauty Beyond Belief, will give an overview of Rocky Mountain wildflowers in their native settings and present examples of how to use them in home landscaping.

"Natives in the Landscape" by Nicola Ripley, environmental consultant for Montane Environmental Solutions, Ltd., will show you native plants in their natural habitats — from alpine meadows and tundra to unusual riparian and sagebrush communities. She will show you how to grow them and where they are for sale.

"Carpets of Color" by Gene Milstein, who with his wife Dee owns Applewood Seed Company, will tell how you can roll out an instant meadow using wildflower sod. He will compare the benefits and drawbacks of an instant wildflower lawn to direct seeding, and will briefly talk about the history and research that led to the development of Applewood's product.

"Wild Yet Tame: Roses in Your Garden" by William Campbell, owner of High County Rosarium and current president of the Colorado Rose Society, will show many beautiful wild and old garden roses to lend a touch of romance to your garden. Gardeners around the world are rediscovering these hardy shrubs for restored gardens, wild gardens, bird gardens and even more rugged gardens.

The symposium is \$46 for members, \$57 for nonmembers and \$36 for students with proof of full-time status. The fees include handouts and lunch, except lunch is not included in the student rate. Consult your Fall Education Programs catalog for a registration form, or call 303-370-8019 or 8020.

Green Thumb News October 1996

Published monthly by the Marketing and Special Events Department of Denver Botanic Gardens, edited by Larry Latta, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
Deadline for Dec. issue: Oct. 16

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
*Mon. and Tues., 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
Wed. through Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Offices
Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8000
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

Pumpkin Fest is only tip of Chatfield

The Pumpkin Festival held each fall at DBG's Chatfield Arboretum — this year on Oct. 12 — has become one of the largest and most fun events that we do during the entire year. It is especially rewarding for members if you bring children, grandchildren or other young people, to see them run through a real pumpkin patch to pick out their own treasured pumpkin.

But if you haven't attended it, you may not know that the festival has become its own craft festival with much more to do than go into the pumpkin patch. With hay rides, craft booths, food, storytellers and a display of antique farm equipment, plus the wonderful environment of Chatfield itself, you and your family can have a great day to remember.

Chatfield is a vital, integral part of Denver Botanic Gardens. We try not to duplicate there the programs we have at the facilities at 1005 York Street, but rather offer distinct programs, opportunities and environments. Chatfield is composed of land around old homesteads and includes an important historic farm complex, partially restored and interpreted. It also includes windbreaks we have been creating over the past couple of decades, an enormously interesting riparian woodland along Deer Creek running through grasslands and re-created wetlands.

A nature center helps visitors become acquainted with the unique history and ecology of our area. In recent years, we have added new dryland plantings that are quite beautiful around the buildings.

If you have not visited Chatfield Arboretum, or have not been there recently, this fall is one of the very best times to visit this great feature of Denver Botanic Gardens.

Richard H. Daley, Executive Director

Correction

Last month's GTN erroneously stated that DBG supporting merchant Smith & Hawken at 268 Detroit St. offers a 20-percent discount to DBG's upper level members. The correct amount is 15 percent. However, the good sports at Smith & Hawken honored the greater discount for us through Sept. 30. That's friendly support!

Campaign targets new corporate members

A campaign to build corporate support for the Gardens will be launched this month and will continue through June 1997 with the goal of adding 40 new corporate members to the roster of Gardens supporters.

We soon will announce exciting new benefits for our corporate friends. A "Corporate Evening at the Gardens" for the employees of all our corporate members is scheduled for July 1997.

A Corporate Gift Committee of 10 business leaders is currently being developed and will be led by Roy Whitehead of Wells Fargo. Whitehead is a trustee of the Gardens and is eager to help build our corporate support in the community.

The campaign will be staffed by Carol Mirenda, development associate at the Gardens. "This is a very exciting opportunity for us," Mirenda said, "and a very exciting time in our history."

Our new projects will dramatically enhance our outdoor gardens and the conservatory exhibit, and with new corporate benefits, we have a very exciting story to tell at Denver Botanic Gardens."

If you are interested in participating in the corporate campaign, please contact Mirenda at 303-370-8185.

DBG's friends convince city planning board

Volunteers — free-time staff, trustees and other friends of Denver Botanic Gardens — rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help persuade the Denver Planning Board that there is plenty of support for DBG's future improvement projects. According to Bob Burns, director of marketing and special events, they collected nearly 1,200 signatures on petitions favoring the projects.

People who signed the petitions included a good number of DBG's neighbors, as well as residents from throughout the Denver metropolitan area.

Copies of the signed petitions were presented to the planning board at its Aug. 7 meeting by trustee Walt Lowry, who lives in the neighborhood and who is in favor of the improvements. Other copies of the petitions have been sent to some City Council members and other Denver officials.

In thanking the volunteer workers, Burns said, "The signatures were collected in only a couple of days, so we know our circulators really went all out for the Gardens!"



Holly Shimizu, chief horticulturist and assistant executive director of the United States Botanic Gardens in Washington, D.C., will speak on "Environmental Gardening and Design" at Denver Botanic Gardens Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Focusing on garden design that successfully creates aesthetically pleasing spaces suitably matched to site and region, Shimizu will cover in depth technical subjects such as soil additives and preparation, fertilizers, mulches, drainage and irrigation, and will explore plant choices and combinations, focusing on native plants and edibles.

Shimizu, a frequent host of "The Victory Garden" public television series, is honorary president of The Herb Society of America. In July she received the Otto Richter Memorial Award from the International Herb Association for her work in herb education. Her home garden in Maryland will be featured in the fall issue of *Garden Design* magazine and in the January 1997 issue of *Horticulture*. In December she will become managing director of the Lewis Center Botanical Garden in Richmond, Va.

The lecture is supported by the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. Tickets are \$12; DBG members pay \$8. The talk will be given in John C. Mitchell II Hall, 1005 York St., at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Please call 303-370-8019 or 8020, to register or present questions.

Helen Fowler Library will remain open from 6 to 7 p.m. the evening of the lecture.

Student illustrators exhibit artwork

Denver Botanic Gardens will host its first exhibit of botanical illustrations by students of the DBG School of Botanical Illustration Nov. 1 to 3 in John C. Mitchell II Hall. The exhibit is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and is included in DBG's standard admission fees (free to members).

Nearly 100 students enroll in the school each year. Past and present students' works — drawings and paintings of plants that are scientifically correct and drawn to scale — will be displayed.

If you are or have been a student in DBG's School of Botanical Illustration and would like to enter the show, call 370-8021 by Oct. 9.

DBG debuts first juried botanical exhibition

Feb. 13, 1997, marks the opening of a new botanical illustration exhibition that will become an annual event at Denver Botanic Gardens. This show will be a rare opportunity for botanical artists to have their work judged and shown and to expose people to the value of good botanical illustration.

There are only a few juried botanical art shows in the nation and none in our region dedicated to recent original illustrations. This show will provide DBG members and the people of metropolitan Denver an opportunity to see works of important current and future illustrators, student and professional, from across the nation. It will emphasize scientifically accurate depiction of plant forms in black and white or color media.

The '97 show will honor renowned nature artist and author Anne Ophelia Dowden. Born in Denver, growing up in Boulder, where she recently returned after a successful career in the East, Anne Ophelia was an influential teacher and commercial illustrator, although she waited until she was 48 to devote all her time and talents to flowers. Since 1983 she has written and illustrated 19 books, and illustrated numerous other books and many articles. Today she lectures and advises artists and botanical gardens, and she and her work remain powerful influences on modern botanical illustration.

Denver Botanic Gardens' exhibition is an outgrowth of its School of Botanical Illustration program, which will begin its seventh year in September. DBG's program began as a dream of Angela Overy, a London University trained botanical artist, who was determined to help Denver Botanic Gardens members view plants in a unique manner — by drawing them. Over the past six years many artists and would-be artists have studied botanical illustration under Angela and her fellow instructors in the School of Botanical Illustration, Rob Proctor and Marge Leggitt.

The exhibition will be Feb. 13 to 23. Deadline for entering artworks is Dec. 2. For an entry form call 303-370-8018. For more information about the show call coordinating volunteer Judy Paez 303-279-6837 or DBG's exhibition coordinator Marcia Bosio 303-370-8012.

Wildflower center's Northington to lecture

David Northington, executive director of the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas, will present "Landscaping with Native Wildflowers" as DBG's 1996 Tempel Wildflower Lecture Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m.

Northington will explain using native plants to create beautiful home gardens that use less water and the importance of native landscaping with wildflowers. He'll also give a visual tour of the wildflower center itself, which has won awards for its environmentally sensitive architecture. The center is designed to showcase North America's indigenous wildflowers, grasses, trees and shrubs.

The National Wildflower Research Center is the only national nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the preservation and re-establishment of native plants in both natural and planned landscapes. Founded by Lady Bird Johnson in 1982, its research, education and display gardens are the realization of Mrs. Johnson's vision of the beautification of the nation.

Northington has served as the center's executive director since 1984. He is the co-author of four books and author of numerous articles in both popular magazines and scientific journals.

The lecture is \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members. Register by calling 303-370-8019 or 8020. Please note that Helen Fowler Library will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. before the lecture.



PLANTS FROM THE PAGES OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Grain of the Gods

Known as *huautli* by the Aztecs, ground amaranth seed and maize were mixed into a paste with maguey syrup, then formed into the image of Huitzilopochtli, a god of war. After an elaborate ceremony the god was broken into fragments for all to "eat the flesh and bones of the god."

To grow their amaranth plants, Aztecs started the seeds in the *chinampas* by cutting the rich canal mud of their raised planting beds into 1-inch cubes, just as we use "Jiffy Pots." When the seedlings reached transplanting size, they were planted along the sides of canals.

Today in some villages of the Chiconcuac Lake and Texcoco areas of Mexico, amaranth is made into sweet tamales called *chuales*, eaten during Day of the Dead celebrations. Amaranth is also made into candies called *alegrías*, popped (roasted) seeds mixed with molasses.

This information was derived from *Amaranth: Modern Prospects for an Ancient Crop* by National Academy of Sciences, *Chilies to Chocolate: Food the Americas Gave the World* by University of Arizona Press, and *Amaranth: From the Past for the Future* by John N. Cole.

Susan Eubank, Senior Librarian

Native grains have ornamental value

Cultivating the plants used by Aztecs, Incas and other American Indians in DBG's "Native Peoples" gardens has brought to the attention of DBG horticulturists several plants of ornamental interest. Among them are some edible grains.

There are many ornamental varieties of the ancient, useful grain amaranth — a close relative of which is our garden pest called pig weed, also edible. Amaranths are easy to grow and can be planted by broadcasting or sowing the seeds in spring. The seeds are rich in lysine. Whole seeds can be cooked as a hot cereal or ground and added to recipes calling for wheat flour (one part amaranth to three or four parts flour). The young leaves are high in calcium and iron, and they make a colorful delicious salad mixed with other greens, or they can be cooked as a potherb.

- *Amaranthus cruentus* 'Chihuahuan Ornamental', whose Mexican name is Sangre de Castilla the "Blood of Noble Spain," has edible black seeds.

- *A. cruentus* 'Hopi Red Dye' is a beautiful annual ornamental that grows up to 5 feet tall with 12-inch flower spikes. The Hopi used it to make a natural scarlet food dye to color "piki" bread. The black seeds are edible and the young leaves are great as greens.

- *A. cruentus* 'Golden Grain' has green leaves on a 5-foot plant with striking golden flower spikes.

- *Eluesine coracana* 'Dragon's Claw Millet' is a 2-foot annual grass with seed heads shaped like a dragon's feet. While not particularly pretty it is an amusing garden novelty, and birds are attracted to the grain. This crop has been grown in Africa for thousands of years and is the most productive cereal grown in India today.

- *Sorghum vulgare* 'Broom Corn' resembles garden corn but the seed heads are arranged like the head of an old-time broom. Sorghum stalks are stripped of their leaves and pressed to yield juice from which a sweet, amber colored syrup is cooked. Birds are quite fond of the seeds.

- *Chenopodium quinoa* has several easy-to-grow cultivars: DBG has had success with the quinoa varieties known as 'Andean Hybrids', 'Isluga' and 'Mother Grain'. The gold, orange and russet seed heads of 'Andean Hybrids' make it the most ornamental of the varieties we have grown. Quinoa is a seed crop of South America, with a close North American relative called goose foot or lamb's quarters. Seeds sown in early spring germinate quickly. Seedlings can be used as salad greens or steamed like spinach. Quinoa seeds are harvested after frost and after they have partially dried in the garden. The seed heads should be hung in a dry place and threshed when thoroughly dry. Try cooking one part quinoa seeds in two parts water for approximately 20 minutes for a delicious high protein side dish (rinse seeds well to remove the bitter seed coat).

Joann Narverud, Grounds Operation Supervisor

August employee of the month

The employee of the month for August is Bill Voek. He has worked for DBG for seven years. Bill's attributes are his willingness to help, his sense of humor and his positive attitude in wanting to get things done. Says his supervisor, Mike Hill, "I have personally enjoyed working with Bill. He has a lot of good ideas. He loves woodworking, hates cleaning bathrooms; loves meeting people, hates snow removal; loves cooking — his favorite hobby — but for some reason won't eat the food he makes. Figure that one out."

Bill's selection by the committee was unanimous. Please join in congratulating him!

Researchers study Eagle, Gunnison plants

This summer was a busy one for researchers in DBG's rare plant program. Aided by two summer interns, Kirsten Heckmann and Melissa Isaacson, staffers Carol Dawson and Mark Minton conducted field research projects in Utah and Colorado, including new undertakings in the Eagle and Gunnison valleys.

According to Carol, DBG's manager of research, they designed a new study this season to observe a 20% change in the mean plant density of *Penstemon harringtonii* in the Eagle River population. *P. harringtonii* is a species that appears to fluctuate wildly in number from year to year. The objective of the study is to track changes over time.

The study design uses 40-meter by 60-meter macroplots with 1-meter by 60-meter permanent quadrats. Two years' data will be necessary to determine a sample size adequate for tracking changes over time in the populations being sampled. The study will continue over a 10-year period, to allow necessary time to evaluate the life history of this species and develop a long-term management plan.

The interns traveled also to Gunnison to collect data on *Astragalus microcymbus*, the skiff milk vetch. DBG's study of the population dynamics of this species is funded by the Bureau of Land Management and the Colorado Natural History Small Grants Program. The research staff is especially interested in documenting the population trends of this species.

Kirsten, a student at Colorado College, will continue to work on the round-leafed four o'clock, *Oxybaphus rotundifolius*. She will utilize data on soil chemistry and population trends of this species for her honors thesis. Denver Botanic Gardens has been studying this species in the Arkansas River Valley since 1993 with staff from the Nature Conservancy.

Federation hosts "Holiday Designs"

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs will host "Holiday Designs," a demonstration by Pat Crawford, nationally recognized floral designer, at the Gardens 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

Crawford will create floral designs for the home, from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, and designers from the federation will share ideas and display holiday table settings.

Crawford, from the Seattle, Wash., area, is an instructor for flower show schools and an accredited flower show judge for the National Council of Garden Clubs. She has taught floral design in Brazil, Puerto Rico and Europe.

The demonstration is open to the public. Admission is \$20 (\$15 for CFGC members). Call 303-689-9745 for reservations.

Holiday Sale offers decorations, gifts

Over the years Denver Botanic Gardens' annual Holiday Sale has earned — deservedly — a reputation as the city's largest boutique of unusual holiday decorations and gifts. Many of the items are handmade; others help you make things.

In addition to all the clever things you've come to expect, this year's buyers and organizers — Gift Shop manager Dina Pownell, volunteer Avalonne Kosanke and the potpourri workers, and members of the DBG Guild and the Associates of DBG — have planned some new offerings. Featured tree ornaments will be tiny birdhouses, in many shapes and styles. You'll find another special section on children's educational toys. There will be gift food items. You can pick up presents for aromatherapy adherents. And this year the sale will be stocked with handy calendars, journals and notebooks.

The sale isn't until Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16, but you'll want to note it on your calendar now. It's an important fund-raiser members love to patronize. For garden lovers and crafters it's a one-stop shopper's delight.

Kaleidoscope of shops

Gift shops from more than 20 nonprofit museums and cultural and civic organizations will sell their wares under one roof at the second annual Kaleidoscope Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 and 26. The cooperative venture, a benefit for 4 Parents Helpline, a family support service, will be at the Greek Hellenic Center, 4610 East Alameda Ave. Denver Botanic Gardens' gift shop will be one of those participating. Shop profits benefit the participating groups. Admission, event fees and activities benefit 4 Parents Helpline.

4 Parents Helpline is a telephone service that provides non-medical information, support and referrals to parents and other caregivers. It is a program of Community College of Denver.

New to Kaleidoscope this year is a patron party Friday evening, when patron shoppers can browse the shops' wares and enjoy wine and cheese with music in the background. Tickets to this preview are \$25.

All-day admission to Kaleidoscope is \$3.50; children 11 and younger are free. For tickets or information call 303-534-3789 or 303-620-4444.

Nature kits for kids

Hands-on educational kits for classroom study of forest and grassland ecologies, created by the Region 2 office of the US Forest Service, are available through Chatfield Arboretum for area teachers. Similar to DBG's rainforest "SKIP Kits," the "Tree Trunk" and "Sod Box" kits for grades K-12 can be checked out by teachers, volunteers or other environmental educators by calling the Arboretum, 973-3705.

October

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Chatfield will sell Tree-mendous Christmas trees Dec. 7.
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Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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Pioneer Graves at Fairmount Cemetery
Weave a Market Basket
- 21 * *Unusual Usual Flowers*
- 22 * *Drawing Plants in Color I, II & III*
Herbal Creations Workshop
- 23 Bonfils Stanton Lecture: Holly Shimizu,
"Environmental Gardening & Design"
Herb Society of America meeting
- 24 Gardeners of America meeting
South African Plant Safari
Halloween and Pumpkin Creations
- 26 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society Workshop
Luminarias
- 27 Goblins in the Gardens—for members
Gifts from Your Garden

November

- 1 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 2 *Forcing Bulbs*
Harvest Centerpiece
- 1-3 Botanical Illustration Student Exhibition
- 2 Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 4 * *Rescape Your Landscape*
- 5 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting

- 6 Tempel Wildflower Lecture: David
Northington, "Landscaping with
Native Wildflowers"
* *How To Use Your Hobby Greenhouse*
- 7 *Wriggling Your Way Through Kitchen Waste*
- 9 Symposium: "Wildflowers Tamed —
Landscaping with Wildflowers & Natives
North American Rock Garden Society
Rocky Mountain Chapter holiday
dinner & meeting
Tropical Discovery
Aromatherapy, Part II
Cutting-Edge Floral Art
- 11 * *Gardener's Ecology*
New Moon Exploration
- 12 Colorado Cactus & Succulent
Society meeting
* *Seven Principles of Water-Smart
Gardening*
* *Bird Watching — Basics and Beyond*
- 13 *Fall Harvest Wreath*
- 15, 16 DBG Holiday Sale
- 16 Rocky Mountain African Violet Society
meeting
- 17 Mile High Daylily Society meeting
- 19 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
Beeswax Candle Making
Gourmet Herbed Oils & Vinegars
- 24 *Tuscan Holiday Potato & Polenta Gnocchi*

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

November 1996



Holidays 'Blossom' at Denver Botanic Gardens in December

With the holiday season quickly approaching, Denver Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers are busy decorating inside and out with thousands of twinkling lights and hundreds of multi-colored poinsettias for the return of Denver's most popular holiday festival — "Blossoms of Light."

Festivities get underway Saturday, Dec. 7, with a special opening ceremony at 5:15 p.m. Following a countdown by the crowd, the light switch will be flipped on, turning the Gardens into a holiday wonderland for the rest of the month. Opening night visitors can listen to the sounds of Metro on the Mall Chorus and the Boulder Brass as they enjoy the indoor and outdoor decorations and a visit from Santa.

Then, every evening from 6 to 9 p.m. through Dec. 31 the festivities continue, with nightly entertainment and free family craft activities. Holiday refreshments will be available, and DBG's Gift Shop will be open selling holiday gifts for the gardener on your list.

Outside, visitors should look for a few new light displays and plan for a longer walk — the display has been extended to the Japanese Garden at the northwest end of the grounds.

Indoors, nearly 1,000 poinsettia plants will be artistically placed throughout the lobby court and conservatory.



Fifteen trees decorated by area elementary schools will adorn John C. Mitchell II Hall, where nightly entertainment will perform.

Teddy Bear Teas return to the holiday line-up Dec. 7 and 14. The teas offer children ages 3 to 10 a chance to dress up and bring their parents out for a day of fun food and entertainment. Children can bring a favorite Teddy bear or doll.

Reservations are required: see the insert in this *Green Thumb News*.

DBG also will present five evenings of special holiday music. The concerts are in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Plan to come early and check out the indoor and outdoor lights before the shows. Check this month's insert for specific information, and make your reservations soon.

"Blossoms of Light" activities other than teas and concerts for DBG members are \$3 for adults and \$1 for youth 6 to 15. For non-members cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 6 to 15. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. When you visit "Blossoms of Light," you will receive tickets for a \$2 per person discount at Denver Zoo's evening "Wildlights" Dec. 7 to 31. For information call 370-8187.

'Tree-mendously' good time at Chatfield

A "Tree-mendous Kick-off" to DBG's "Blossoms of Light" winter celebration will be at Chatfield Arboretum Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Families can enjoy holiday craft activities, seasonal refreshments and a visit from Santa as they shop for their freshly-cut, high-quality Christmas trees and wreaths.

A choice of three kinds of trees is available: noble fir, scotch pine or douglas fir. The wreaths are decorated with a velvet weatherproof bow and cluster of pine cones surrounded by fragrant cedar boughs, and are Colorado-made by Piedmont Farms in Wellington.

Members can take advantage of early-bird discounts of at least 20 percent by ordering trees and wreaths before December. Mail or FAX your order form by Nov. 30, then pick up your Tree-mendous tree Dec. 7 at the Arboretum, and enjoy the festivities of the day.

For more information call the Arboretum, 303-973-3705.



Noble Fir

4-5'	.....	..\$36
5-6'	.....	..\$46
6-7'	.....	..\$52
7-8'	.....	..\$60



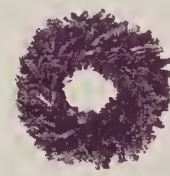
Scotch Pine

2-4'	.....	..\$17
4-5'	.....	..\$26
5-6'	.....	..\$30
6-7'	.....	..\$35



Douglas Fir

3-4'	.....	..\$20
4-5'	.....	..\$24
5-6'	.....	..\$28
6-7'	.....	..\$32



Decorated Wreath

18-20"	.....	..\$20
24-28"	.....	..\$25

Early Bird Tree-mendous Kick-Off Order Form

Enclosed is \$_____ for the following:

Quantity	Tree Type	Wreath	Size	Price
Name _____				
Address _____				
City _____		Zip _____		
Day Phone _____		Evening Phone _____		
Member of Denver Botanic Gardens?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Member ID # _____
(on top line of address label on this GTN)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MC				
# _____		Exp. _____		
Signature _____				

Mail this order to Chatfield Arboretum, 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton, CO 80123.
Or FAX credit card order to 303-973-1979. To be eligible for the discount this order must be received by Nov. 30.
Make checks payable to Chatfield Arboretum. If you'd like more information, call the Arboretum, 303-973-3705.

Green Thumb News November 1996

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for Jan. issue: Nov. 16

Getting in touch with DBG

General information 331-4000
TDD 370-8032
Dr. Green plant information 370-8068
Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.

Gift Shop 331-4009
Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Helen Fowler Library 370-8014
Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed major holidays.

Offices

Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Class registration 370-8020
Facility rental 370-8012
Green Thumb News 370-8033
Guided tours 370-8019
Jobs, human resources 370-8000
Media relations 370-8033
Membership services 370-8029
Plant society meetings 370-8097
Security, emergencies 370-8017
Special events information 370-8187
Tribute gifts 370-8064
Volunteering 370-8049

Chatfield Arboretum 973-3705
Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

With the year drawing to a close, it's a good time to look back on — and forward to — DBG's role in national plant conferences held in Denver.

In July, the American Hemerocallis (Daylily) Society met in Denver for its national conference. As a part of the conference, it toured DBG's newly renovated Daylily Garden. In August the National Perennial Plant Association held its annual conference in Denver. Its participants, too, enjoyed touring DBG's newly planted O'Fallon Perennial Walk. Most recently, in October the Center for Plant Conservation held its annual meeting at the Gardens.

Several other national and international groups have chosen Colorado as the site for their 1997 conferences. In June, the American Bonsai Society, the Associated Koi Clubs of America, the Heritage Rose Foundation and the Herb Society of America all will hold their annual conferences in Denver. In August, the International Water Lily Society will hold its international conference here, and the North American Mycological Association will meet in Copper Mountain.

Although Denver Botanic Gardens often does not have a large enough space to support such national meetings, tours of DBG's various gardens or facilities are a part of the conference schedules.

The fact that DBG is becoming the center for Rocky Mountain horticulture and that we have nationally — and, in fact, internationally — acclaimed gardens, such as our Rock Alpine Garden, Water Gardens and our new O'Fallon Perennial Walk, makes Denver an ideal location to hold a national horticulture meeting. As more and more of these meetings and conferences come to Denver, DBG will increasingly find itself in the national spotlight.

In 2001 DBG has been selected as the host institution for the national meeting of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, a meeting last hosted here in the late 1970s.

We're as excited to play host to the participants as they are to visit our institution. You can be proud that your Gardens has reached this premier position in the horticulture community.

*Richard H. Daley
Executive Director*

Wildflowers tamed in day-long symposium

Denver Botanic Gardens will host "Wildflowers Tamed: Landscaping with Wildflowers and Natives," Saturday, Nov. 9, in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

Four speakers will show you how to bring to your home landscape the beauty of native flowers in this day-long symposium.

Don Eversal, owner of Beauty Beyond Belief, presents "Landscaping with Wildflowers." Nicola Ripley, new education associate for Vail Alpine Garden Foundation, will talk about "Natives in the Landscape." "Carpets of Color" will be presented by Gene Milstein. Finally William Campbell, owner of High County Rosarium and president of the Colorado Rose Society, talks on "Wild Yet Tame: Roses in Your Garden."

The symposium is \$46 for members, \$57 for nonmembers and \$36 for students with proof of full-time status. The fees include all handouts and lunch (lunch is not included for those registering at the student rate). Consult your Fall Education Programs catalog for more information and a registration form, or call 370-8019 or 370-8020.

Native wildflower lecture at DBG

David Northington, director of the National Wildflower Research Center in Austin, Texas, presents "Landscaping with Native Wildflowers" as the 1996 Tempel Wildflower Lecture Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall.

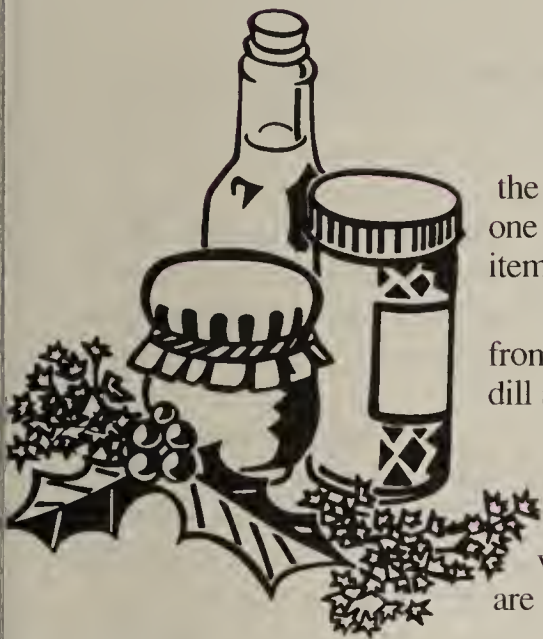
Northington will explain using native plants to create beautiful home gardens that need water and the importance of using these plants in your landscape. He'll give a visual tour of the wildflower center itself, which has won awards for its environmentally sensitive architecture. The center is designed to showcase the splendors of North America's indigenous flora.

Cost of the lecture is \$8 for members and \$12 for nonmembers. Register by calling 370-8019 or 370-8020. Helen Fowler Library will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. before the lecture.



David Northington

DBG Holiday Sale offers cornucopia of festive, handmade gifts



Shoppers, take note! Denver Botanic Gardens' Holiday Sale is just around the corner — Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16. The annual event is one of the region's most popular shopping affairs, featuring thousands of items for culinary, craft and gardening enthusiasts.

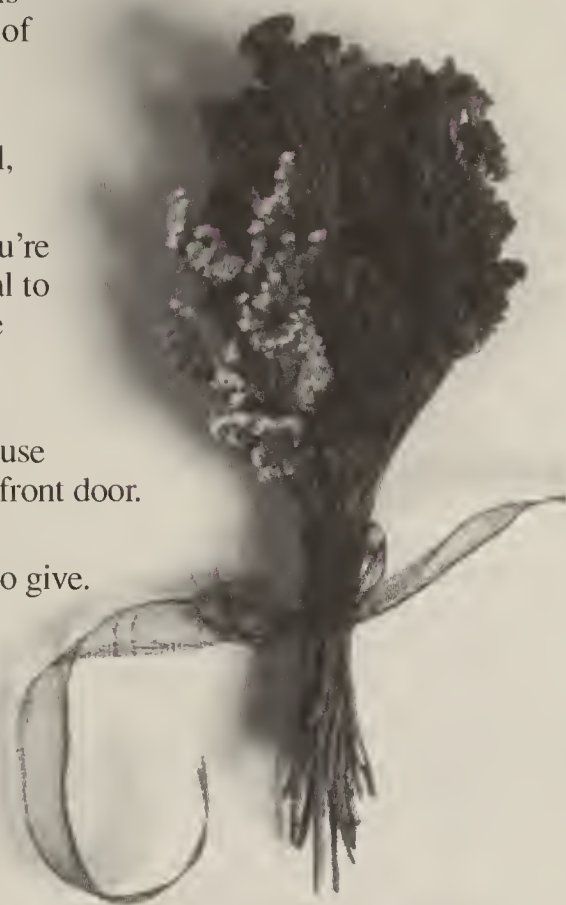
Hundreds of bottles of stylish vinegars featuring herbs harvested from DBG's gardens will be for sale for just \$3.75. Look for opal basil, dill and garlic, lemon thyme and chile pepper flavors.

A popular area of the sale is the dried flower section. Whether you're looking for an already-arranged bouquet or bargain-priced material to make your own arrangement, you'll be pleasantly surprised by the variety — and the price. This year's specialty — sunflowers — are especially fabulous.

An array of potpourri and aromatherapy items will leave your house in scent-sational shape for the holiday season. Don't forget to select a handmade wreath to adorn your front door.

For the culinary creator on your shopping list, be sure to pick up some herb seasoning packets or a gift basket full of tasty items — soup mixes, hors d'oeuvre mixes and more — all wrapped and ready to give.

Chatfield Arboretum's custom-boxed jars of "best honey by a dam site" will be available in ample supply. The honey has become a favored item for members to give — and to enjoy — during the holidays.



If you enjoyed the BirdHaus Display at the Gardens this summer, you'll want to check out the many birdhouses for sale. Some of the abodes are sure to attract fine-feathered friends — others will hang nicely indoors on your Christmas tree.

And if your mission this year is to revamp your ornament collection, you need look no further. The sale will offer an enormous collection of holiday ornaments, with a special emphasis on that favorite DBG hobby — gardening.



Give yourself plenty of time to browse the sale — then give your friends and family gifts they'll cherish this holiday season. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Admission to the sale, and to the Gardens, is free. DBG members receive a 10 percent discount on purchases more than \$10 during the sale. For more information call 370-8079.

Paper-whites bloom for the holidays

Do-it-yourselfers still have time to force paper-white narcissus for December gifts. The bulbs require no cooling period and can produce their pungent blossoms in just six weeks.

Choose a shallow pot or bowl without a drainage hole and fill it two-thirds full of gravel. Place the bulbs on the gravel, pointed side up, and fill with gravel to near the container's edge. For best display, use as many bulbs as the container will hold.

Fill the container with water to the bottom of the bulbs. Set the container in a cool (45° to 50° F) dark spot for about three weeks while the roots sprout. Be sure to check the water level regularly, and replenish when needed.

After the roots have developed, move the container to a sunny spot. To prevent leggy, floppy plants find the sunniest window possible and avoid high temperatures.

The shoots develop rapidly so expect clusters of fragrant white flowers in about three weeks. They'll last up to 10 days.

Answers from Dr. Green

Following is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

Q. Is this the best time to cut the dead tops from the perennials in my garden?

A. No. Many gardeners are over zealous to "tidy up the garden" for winter by removing the growth of last season's perennials as soon as it is killed. In fact, the withered foliage often drapes to provide a natural mulch that will conserve moisture and moderate temperature extremes about the crown of the plant during the dormant season. Relax and enjoy the rime of a frosty morning on those ripened seed pods and that tawny foliage. Pile a few inches of raked leaves onto the bed if much bare soil shows, and save your garden cleanup for late winter or early spring.



PLANTS FROM THE PAGES
OF HELEN FOWLER LIBRARY

Apple lore

Why do we bob for apples? That much beloved ritual of children on Halloween originated as a Celtic ceremony called the Eve of Samhein. The focus of the ceremony was to rekindle the fires on every hearth in the country, but an accompanying activity was to try to divine their fortunes for the next 12 months. Each apple was named and tossed into a tub of water. The girls kneeled, shut their eyes, put their hands behind them and the apple caught in the teeth by the participant designated who the bobber was to marry.

Why will we go a-wassailing? Wassail, the traditional British holiday drink made of hot ale and spices, traditionally had roasted apples floating in the brew. With Christmas falling during the winter solstice some speculate that the roasted apples floating in the brew symbolize the sun. The Roman interpretation was that the apple was a symbol of the sun god, Apollo. It also was a gift of the Isle of Avalon (ancient Welsh for apple) where soldiers went to be healed of their wounds. The wassail (Middle English for "be hale") with its floating apple is truly a toast to health and to the return of the sun.

For more on apple symbolism check out the following books at Helen Fowler Library:

Martin, Alice A. *All About Apples*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1976. SB 363 M2785.

Root, Waverley. *Food: An Authoritative and Visual History and Dictionary of the Foods of the World*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1980. TX 349 R5 1986.

Wynne, Peter. *Apples*. New York: Hawthorn Books, 1975. SB 363 W966.

Q. Is the outdoor planting season over?

A. Perhaps not. Container grown trees, shrubs and perennials may be planted in Colorado almost any time you can dig the soil. You can't expect their root systems to grow or establish much after the weather turns really cold, but the plants will likely fare as well or better in the ground than they will if left in their containers at a nursery all winter. The bargain prices of remaining nursery stock at this time of year can justify a bit of risk. Watch out for "frost heaving" during cold weather (the plant is literally pushed out of the ground when freezing moisture in the soil around it expands) and be sure to water during the "warm, dry spells" of a typical Front Range winter. Also, it's not too late to plan and plant a colorful bulb display for enjoyment next spring.

"Dr. Green" answers plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call, 370-8068.

Employee of the month

Karen Schoen, mycological assistant, was voted by her co-workers as September's employee of the month.

Karen has learned Latin names and scientific information so she can work independently in the Herbarium of Fungi. She carries out any project with energy and a positive attitude. Volunteers, visitors and lost wanderers are greeted by her kind, helpful and pleasant demeanor.

In the five years she has been at DBG, Karen has learned not just the various positions she has held, but the inner workings of the Gardens. As a result, she is a great source of information for visitors and employees alike.

We congratulate you, Karen!



Blossoms of Light

Denver Botanic Gardens

Blossoms of Light

Dec. 7 through 31, 6 to 9 p.m.

Colorful, twinkling lights; magical, animated displays; musical entertainment; family craft activities and holiday refreshments...the holiday season is aglow at Denver Botanic Gardens.

Admission

Adults \$5

Seniors (65 & older) and children 6-15 \$3

Adult members \$3

Senior and child members \$1

Children 5 and younger FREE

One adult admission per party will receive a \$2 off ticket for each person in their party for Denver Zoo's Wildlights.

Ticket box office opens Nov. 11 for Holiday Concerts and Teddy Bear Teas.

Poinsettias, wreaths and other holiday gifts will be available in the Gift Shop.

A Tree-mendous Kick-off to Blossoms of Light at Chatfield Arboretum

Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shop for a freshly-cut, high-quality Christmas tree or wreath. Enjoy holiday craft activities, seasonal refreshments and a visit from Santa. A choice of three kinds of trees is available: noble fir, scotch pine or douglas fir. Wreaths are decorated with a velvet weatherproof bow and a cluster of pine cones surrounded by fragrant cedar boughs. For information or to pre-order your tree, call 973-3705.



Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York Street

303-370-8187

TDD 370-8032



Rocky
Mountain
News



P A R E N T

Holiday Concerts

Denver Botanic Gardens is proud to present its fifth season of Holiday Concerts. Concerts are from 7-9 p.m. in Mitchell Hall. Fill your holiday season with music!

- Wind Machine: Wednesday, Dec. 11A holiday favorite at the Gardens.
- Wind Machine: Thursday, Dec. 12A holiday favorite at the Gardens.
- Conjunto Colores: Wednesday, Dec. 18The best Latin band in the region.
- Jim Salestrom & Southern Exposure: Thursday, Dec. 19An evening of country & bluegrass.
- Paul Warburton Quartet: Thursday, Dec. 26A relaxing, jazzy anecdote to holiday hoopla.
with Ron Miles, Eric Gunnison & Nat Yarbrough

Teddy Bear Teas

Children (recommended ages 3 to 10) are invited to bring their favorite doll or Teddy bear, along with their favorite adult or two, to these modified high teas.

Saturday, Dec. 7; Entertainment by Lisa Reinecke, 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14; Entertainment by Joel Silverman, 11 a.m., 1 or 3 p.m.

Registration Form

Mail and walk-in orders available after Nov. 11 at Denver Botanic Garden’ ticket window, 1005 York St., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No refunds or exchanges.

To qualify for a reduced ticket price for concerts, you must be a current DBG member at the Arbor Circle level or above, and you must use the exact name(s) when ordering tickets. If you are not currently a member, call the Gardens, 370-8029, for full membership details.

For Teddy Bear Teas, please indicate first and second choices of time and date by using the numbers 1 and 2 in the boxes. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all mail orders. No member discount on Teddy Bear Teas.

1996 Denver Botanic Gardens Mail Order Form

To qualify for a reduced ticket price you must be a current DBG member at the Arbor Circle level or above and you must use the exact name(s) on your card when ordering tickets. DBG Membership No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Concert	Date	# of Tickets		Member Price	Nonmember Price	Total
Wind Machine	Wednesday, Dec. 11		x	\$12	\$14	
Wind Machine	Thursday, Dec. 12		x	\$12	\$14	
Conjunto Colores	Wednesday, Dec. 18		x	\$11	\$13	
Jim Salestrom & So. Ex.	Thursday, Dec. 19		x	\$11	\$13	
Paul Warburton Quartet	Thursday, Dec. 26		x	\$11	\$13	
Tea	Date	# Adult/Child		Adult Price	Child Price	Total
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 7 at 11 a.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 7 at 1 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Teddy Bear Tea <input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.	/	x	\$15	\$8	
Grand Total					\$	

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Daytime Phone

☐ Check or money order enclosed (payable to Denver Botanic Gardens)

☐ Please charge my tickets to: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard (add \$1 handling fee per ticket for credit card orders)

Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature



An apple by any other name...

Through the years, improved storage and shipping techniques have made more and more apple varieties available in local supermarkets. Now shoppers can choose from locally grown apples, apples grown around the U.S. and even those from other countries. Imported apples, such as those from the southern hemisphere, now offer consumers a fresh variety for a longer season since their fall is our spring.

Choosing the right apple from all these varieties can be a difficult decision. Following are guidelines for choosing the best apple for different purposes:

For a tart apple to eat fresh or use in a salad try Cortland, Empire, Spartan, Winesap or Granny Smith.

For a sweet apple to eat fresh or use in a salad, Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, Jonagold or Red Delicious are recommended.

For apple pie use Braeburn, Cortland, Golden Delicious, Newtown Pippin or Spartan.

For apple sauce Empire, Greening, Jon-a-mac or Newtown Pippin are best.

For baking look for Rome Beauty, Jonagold, Granny Smith or Golden Delicious.

Artists, take note! Deadlines are nearing!

February Botanical Illustration Show entries are due Dec. 2

Plant & Book Sale Poster Contest entries are due Jan. 6

Picture a Great Garden Photo Contest entries are due Feb. 14

Call 370-8018 for an entry form.

Gift memberships – the perfect choice!

A Denver Botanic Gardens membership makes a perfect gift for that person on your list who is hard to buy for. It's a gift that can be used again and again, and it's guaranteed to last a whole year! When you purchase a new or renewing gift membership at the \$50-level or higher, a \$5 certificate for purchases in the DBG Gift Shop will be sent along with the membership material.

Give a DBG Membership!

GENERAL BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Free admission to York Street and Chatfield facilities
- Publications including newsletters and class listings
- Discounts on classes, in Gift Shop, at Plant & Book Sale
- Free events and special invitations
- Free guest passes (according to level of membership)
- And lots more...please see benefits brochure for details.

- ☐ The Landscaper – \$35 – Admits member and one guest each visit.
- ☐ The Arbor Circle – \$50 – Two member cards, each card admits three; summer concert discounts.
- ☐ The Botanist Club – \$120 – Same benefits as Arbor Circle PLUS four free summer concert tickets, merchant discounts and a breakfast in the Gardens.
- ☐ The Gardener – \$25 – Admits one (seniors, age 65, may ask for one extra guest pass each visit)

Please send a gift membership to:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

WorkPhone _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Sign gift card _____

Gift card ☐ taken, or mail ☐ to recipient ☐ to me, by (date) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to Denver Botanic Gardens.

Charge membership to ☐ VISA ☐ MC

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Recipients receive a card informing them of your gift plus a free plant that may be picked up at the Gardens.

Please return this form with payment to:

Denver Botanic Gardens Membership Office

Dept. 251

Denver, CO 80291-0251

Questions or to order by phone call 370-8029.



Year-end guide to giving

Many people include charitable gifts in their year-end holiday gift giving. Year-end offers a special opportunity to review the year’s finances and make tax-wise charitable gift decisions.

A gift to Denver Botanic Gardens lets you share in our continuing excellence in education, horticulture, visitor services and other programs that members and the public enjoy. We encourage you to be charitably minded this holiday season and to include DBG in your year-end giving plans.

- Here are a few tips to help with your gift decisions:
- Charitable gifts made by Dec. 31 are deductible in 1996.
 - Making a cash gift is the simplest way to support a charitable organization.
 - Giving appreciated property rather than cash can bring you greater tax savings because you will not pay taxes on your profit and your deduction will be the property’s full market value. To give securities, contact your investment advisor as early as possible. We can provide more information, too.
 - You can increase your gift if your employer offers a matching gift program. In most cases, all you need to do is complete the form your company uses to initiate the corporate donation.
 - To ensure full tax benefits, keep all acknowledgments of gifts and gift amounts with your other tax records.

Ask your advisor about the methods of giving that are most advantageous for you.

The December *Green Thumb News* will contain a coupon with which you can mail a gift. Or, you may call the Gardens’ development office, 370-8027, for more information.

Molly Cavanaugh Williams
Director of Membership and Development

New Supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens welcomes the following Four Seasons and Corporate members who began or renewed their memberships during the third quarter of 1996 and thanks those who began or renewed their memberships in the second quarter of 1996 at supporting levels:

Four Seasons members

Mrs. George Anderman
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Baldwin
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Benson
Mrs. Louis Charsky
Mrs. Cris Dobbins
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Gemmill
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Kurtz
Carol & Ron Mirenda
Ms. Kathleen Price
Mr. Daniel L. Ritchie
Mrs. Benjamin Stapleton
Mrs. Charles Sterne
Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Swalm
Mr. & Mrs. Moses Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Vickers

Corporate members

First Data Corporation
MGA Communications Inc.
Park Meadows
Piper Jaffray
Thomas & Perkins
Toyota Motor Sales Inc.

Perennial Partners

Mr. & Mrs. George M. Hopfenbeck Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph C. Jaudon
Dr. Raymond Wood II

Conservator’s Society

Mr. & Mrs. Leo J. Barlow
Ms. Kali Barranova
Ms. Theresa Beck & Mr. Scott Beck
Ms. Jacqueline L. Cothran
Ms. Rosemarie Eck
Mr. & Mrs. Ray M. Frey
Ms. Claire Ganz
Mr. Gregory Hahn & Ms. Leslie Hahn
Ms. Hazel Heckers
Mr. Mark A. McPherson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald W. Moore
Mr. D.C. Reed
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Shippey
Ms. Kara Spitler & Mr. Robert Martinez
Mr. Richard Thorpe & Dr. Patricia Thorpe

Mr. & Mrs. William H. Timmons
Ms. Melanie Weiss Turner &
Mr. William Turner
Mr. Peter A. Winkler
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert L. Wittow

Botanist Club

Mr. Linn F. Adams
Ms. Kathleen N. Akin
Ms. Kay Allen & Mr. Jeff Alan
Mrs. Jannice Alvaneý & Mr. Paul Johl
Mr. & Mrs. James Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Appel
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Austin
Ms. Janice Barfield
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Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Barru
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Mrs. Pamela S. Wiggins &
 Mr. Kimbell K. Wiggins
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Mr. & Mrs. Earl L. Wright
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Zeien
Dr. Claire Zilber & Dr. John Menninger

From your membership office

Members will ‘Herald the Season’

“Herald the Season,” DBG’s members-only preview of “Blossoms of Light,” will be Wednesday, Dec. 4, and Thursday, Dec. 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening. The event will bring excitement to young and old, with music by Metro on the Mall Chorus and the Original Dickens Carolers, holiday craft activities, face painting, balloon sculpting, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, sweets, coffee and hot chocolate, and much more.

Admission is \$6 for adults and children; children 2 and younger are free. Reservations for this event are required and limited. Watch for your members-only invitation for more information or call 370-8187 after Nov. 10 to reserve your spot by phone.

‘Blossoms’ pass for members

Be sure to watch for the “Blossoms of Light” member pass in next month’s *Green Thumb News*. The pass is good for free admission to one evening of the month-long winter event for two adults and two children. Members can purchase additional tickets at a reduced price all month long: \$3 for adults or \$1 for children 6 to 15 years old. And, every time you visit “Blossoms of Light,” you’ll receive a coupon for a \$2 per person discount at Denver Zoo’s “Wildlights.”

Tributes

In memory of Chloanna Bruce
Diane & Graf Cornish
In memory of Jeanne Cook
Mrs. Priscilla McClintock
In memory of Joan Hamilton Egan
Mr. Kenneth Egan
In memory of Richard G. Daley
Dr. Gene Bloom
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Boergers & Family
Dr. William A. Campbell
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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Davis
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Mrs. Patricia Long
Mr. & Mrs. J. Landis Martin
Mr. John E. Moyer
Dr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert
Mrs. T.E. Taplin
Doris & Dave Watson
In memory of Maria DeAngelis
Diana & Don Mulino
In memory of William Garrison
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Becker
Mr. & Mrs. T. Vincent Canning

Mrs. Ellen Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Schultz
Mrs. Cleon Morgan
Virginia Polley
In memory of Gloria Falkenberg
Mr. Field Benton
In memory of Evelyn Kolowich
Mrs. Priscilla McClintock
In memory of Robert Kosanke
Ruth & Bill Cobban
In memory of Mark Linderholm
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Alkire
Caroline & Maurice Schulte
In memory of Ray & Maria Reeves
Sandy Eggen
In memory of Sue Ellen Roser
Linda Morley
In memory of Paul Winckler
Betty Whitesell
In honor of Jane Silverstein Ries
Dr. & Mrs. Moras Shubert
In honor of Emily & Bill Goodin’s
 50th Wedding Anninversary
Mrs. Ruth Adams

Birthdays.. Anniversaries.. Memorials...You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It’s a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.

November

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Inside this Green Thumb News

Learn all about wildflowers.

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Holiday Sale offers one-stop shopping.

page 3

Dr. Green answers your gardening questions.

page 4

Give a gift membership for the holidays.

page 5

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Address correction requested



Coming Up: DBG School of Botanical Illustration student exhibit Nov. 1 to 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November

- 1 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 2 *Forcing Bulbs*
Harvest Centerpiece
- 1-3 Botanical Illustration Student Exhibition
- 2 Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers meeting
- 4 * *Rescape Your Landscape*
- 5 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
- 6 Tempel Wildflower Lecture: "Landscaping with Native Wildflowers"
* *How To Use Your Hobby Greenhouse*
- 7 *Wriggling Your Way Through Kitchen Waste*
- 8 Holiday Designs floral arranging demonstration
- 9 Symposium: Landscaping with Wildflowers & Natives
North American Rock Garden Society Rocky Mountain
Chapter holiday dinner & meeting
Tropical Discovery
Aromatherapy, Part II
Cutting-Edge Floral Art
- 11 * *Gardener's Ecology*
New Moon Exploration
- 12 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society meeting
* *Seven Principles of Water-Smart Gardening*
* *Bird Watching — Basics and Beyond*
- 13 *Fall Harvest Wreath*
- 15,16 DBG Holiday Sale
- 16 Rocky Mountain African Violet Society meeting
- 17 Mile High Daylily Society meeting

- 19 Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society meeting
Beeswax Candle Making
Gourmet Herbed Oils & Vinegars
- 24 *Tuscan Holiday Potato & Polenta Gnocchi*
- 27 Herb Society of America meeting

December

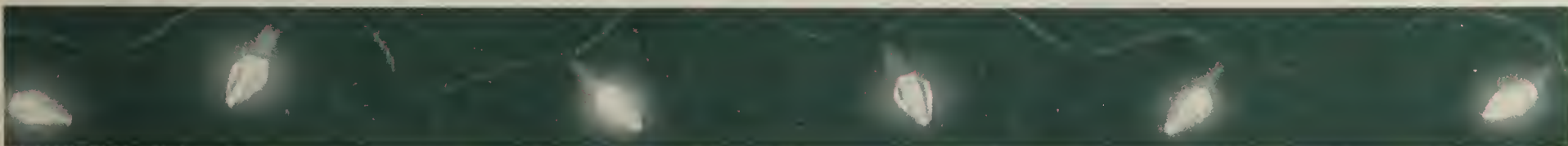
- 3 *Holiday Birch Wreath*
Advanced Drawing and Composition I & II
Beginning Pen and Ink Illustration
- 4&5 Herald the Season — for members only
- 5 Gardeners of America meeting
- 6 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
Tree Decorations — It's for the Birds
- 7 Tree-mendous Kickoff at Chatfield Arboretum
Teddy Bear Teas
Blossoms of Light opening ceremonies
Water Garden Society holiday party and meeting
Holiday Evergreen Swags
- 7-31 Blossoms of Light Holiday Festival
- 11 Holiday Concert: Wind Machine
- 12 Holiday Concert: Wind Machine
- 14 Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Society meeting
Teddy Bear Teas
- 18 Holiday Concert: Conjunto Colores
- 19 Holiday Concert: Jim Salestrom and Southern Exposure
- 26 Holiday Concert: The Paul Warburton Quartet
- 26-30 Designs in Science at Collage Children's Museum

Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.

Green Thumb News

Denver Botanic Gardens

December 1996



Twinkling lights, festive music, family fun at Blossoms

Denver Botanic Gardens becomes a winter wonderland this month during its annual "Blossoms of Light" holiday celebration Dec. 7 to 31. The festival has become a Colorado favorite, offering families a wholesome, entertaining alternative to shopping malls and holiday hoopla.

Outside, the Gardens will be ablaze with thousands of twinkling lights outlining the many dynamically-shaped trees and shrubs. Visitors will be amazed at the many animated light displays—colorful flowers that seem to bloom with the rising sun, butterflies that flutter above flowers, dragonflies that swoop in mid-air, frogs that leap among lily pads and a school of fish that swims toward its food.

Indoors, more than 1,000 poinsettia plants—including several new varieties—will adorn the lobby court and tropical conservatory. The conservatory, decorated with thousands of colorful lights, will provide a warm retreat after braving the cold outdoors.

The focus of the southwestern-decorated lobby will be a 15-foot pepper plant "tree." Piñatas, luminaries and ristras will help transform the lobby into a rainbow of color. More than a dozen trees decorated by area elementary schools will adorn John C. Mitchell II Hall, where nightly entertainment—carolers, bell ringers, dancers and other musical groups—will perform. (Mitchell Hall is not open for public viewing during concert evenings, Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19 and 26.)

Each evening families can participate in a free "Nature's Workshop" craft project, and seasonal refreshments—hot chocolate, hot cider, brownies and churros (a sweet Mexican pastry)—will be for sale. DBG's Gift Shop, stocked with holiday cards, ornaments and unique gardening gifts, will be open each night. DBG once again will be collecting new and used toys for the Santa Claus Shop. Bring in a donation and receive a coupon for a free hot beverage.

"Blossoms of Light" is sponsored by *Rocky Mountain News*, *Colorado Parent Magazine* and KMGH-TV Colorado's 7. Activities are from 6 to 9 each night. Admission to "Blossoms of Light" for DBG members is \$3 for adults and \$1 for seniors 65 and older and youth 6 to 15. Nonmember cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and youth. Children 5 and younger are admitted free. Be sure to clip your one-time free admission coupon on page 11. Each time you visit "Blossoms of Light" you'll also receive tickets for a \$2 per person discount at Denver Zoo's evening "Wildlights."

For more information call 370-8187.

Tree-mendous trees at Chatfield Arboretum

Don't forget to visit Chatfield Arboretum Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the "Tree-mendous Kick-off" to "Blossoms of Light."

Bring your family out for a day in the country, enjoy children's make-it and take-it craft projects, seasonal refreshments and a perfect opportunity to purchase your holiday greens.

Freshly-cut Christmas trees—noble fir, scotch pine or douglas fir—in a variety of sizes will be for sale. Or, you can purchase a fragrant holiday wreath, decorated with a bow and pinecones. Beeswax candles and straw-and-wheat ornaments handmade by Arboretum volunteers also will be for sale. Dickens Carolers will stroll the grounds in old-fashioned garb singing holiday classics from noon to 2 p.m.

Admission to the "Tree-mendous Kick-off" is free. For more information call 973-3705.

"Blossoms" concerts jazz up the holidays

Five evenings during December special music will complement "Blossoms of Light" festivities.

Dec. 11 and 12 Wind Machine returns to DBG for a night of jazzy holiday favorites. The popular quintet recently released a new holiday compact disc, "Christmas," and the performance will feature many of the new compositions.

Dec. 18 Conjunto Colores heats up the Gardens. The nine-piece Latin band has been dubbed the best in the region, echoing the sounds of Tito Puente.

Jim Salestrom and Southern Exposure bring their sounds — alone and together — to the Gardens Dec. 19. Colorado's Avalanche hockey team insisted Salestrom sing the national anthem before each of the 1996 playoff games and the Stanley Cup. He has written songs for many

(Continued on page 3: "Blossoms concerts...")

Green Thumb News December 1996

Published monthly by Denver Botanic Gardens' Marketing and Special Events Dept., 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206
edited by Wendy Tucciarone
horticulture editor Ken Slump
Deadline for Feb. issue: Dec. 20

Getting in touch with DBG

General information	331-4000
TDD	370-8032
Dr. Green plant information	370-8068
<i>Tues. and Thurs., 1 to 3 p.m.</i>	
Gift Shop	331-4009
<i>Every day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</i>	
Helen Fowler Library	370-8014
<i>Sun. through Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
<i>Closed major holidays.</i>	
Offices	
<i>Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	
Class registration	370-8020
Facility rental	370-8012
Green Thumb News	370-8033
Guided tours	370-8019
Jobs, human resources	370-8000
Media relations	370-8033
Membership services	370-8029
Plant society meetings	370-8097
Security, emergencies	370-8017
Special events information	370-8187
Tribute gifts	370-8064
Volunteering	370-8049
Chatfield Arboretum	973-3705
<i>Every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</i>	

Denver Botanic Gardens and Chatfield Arboretum are established and maintained by Denver Botanic Gardens, Inc., for the people of the City and County of Denver and for the general public in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Botanic Gardens is also grateful for funds from the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which enable the Gardens to expand services and enhance the quality of programs and exhibits.

From the executive director

This year the DBG Board of Trustees established three awards to honor individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the stewardship of plants and the environment, to education and to horticulture. Nominations were submitted in February and reviewed by a seven-person committee including three DBG trustees, three experts in the fields of horticulture, education and environment, and myself. The awards were presented at a ceremony at the Gardens in October.



l to r: DBG Board President Don Kany, Jane Silverstein Ries, Laura Belsten, Brien Meilleur (CPC) and Richard Daley

The Center for Plant Conservation was awarded the Denver Botanic Gardens Medal. The Medal honors people or institutions who acknowledge the needs to preserve our natural environment and who bring superior effort and creativity to the conservation of rare, threatened or endangered plants and their habitats. The CPC is the only united nationwide effort to save the plants of the U.S. from extinction.

Laura Belsten, director of the Environmental Policy and Management Program at University College of the University of Denver, was presented DBG's Distinguished Achievement in Education Award. Leading

people to learn about plants and their importance to the environment and motivating cooperation among diverse interests are important first steps toward conservation and wise use of plants. Belsten has made the EPM program the foremost of its kind—a far-reaching, innovative program in environmental education.

Jane Silverstein Ries, Denver landscape architect, received the Distinguished Achievement in Horticulture Award. For more than six decades Ries has designed urban landscapes with a rare sensitivity toward historic and regional context. She has made an indelible imprint on Colorado by affirming our natural environment in her design and by demonstrating through her work and life the importance of good horticulture to the livability of our cities.

In February 1997, we will accept nominations for a second annual presentation. If you know of an outstanding individual or organization who you think should be recognized, please call me for a nomination form.

All of us at DBG strive every day to improve our environment and create outstanding educational programs and world-class horticultural displays. It is our pleasure now to be able to honor others who share these goals and values and make extraordinary contributions of their own.

*Richard H. Daley
Executive Director*

Internships available in applied horticulture

DBG's Education Department invites interested students studying horticulture to apply for the 1997 Summer Internship Program in Applied Horticulture. This 10-week internship is from June 9 to Aug. 15 and offers students the opportunity to work alongside the Gardens' professional gardening staff, learning the daily operations of a public display garden.

Work experience includes planting, watering, pruning and weeding on the outside grounds; seed transplanting and propagation in the greenhouses; assisting with the tropical and subtropical plant displays; and attending a weekly lecture and field trip.

Applicants currently must be enrolled in college programs (including graduate programs), and preference will be given to residents of/or students in the states of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The program welcomes both traditional and nontraditional students, including those that are making career changes into the field of horticulture.

To qualify for the 1997 Summer Internship Program in Applied Horticulture applicants must have completed their sophomore year of college with a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 and must currently be enrolled as either an undergraduate or a graduate student. Several introductory courses in botany and horticulture are prerequisites.

Applicants are sought for the two Alice Mann Owen Internships in Applied Horticulture, the two Beatrice B. Taplin Internships in Applied Horticulture, the Clara Van Schaak Phipps Internship in Applied Horticulture and the Donald L. McIntosh Internship. For more information call Paula Ogilvie at DBG, 370-8041. All completed application materials are due Feb. 14, 1997.

Incredibly edible plants featured

Discover tasty treats and exotic plants in "Incredible Edibles," a series of free programs offered at DBG throughout the winter months.

The first program begins Jan. 18 to 20 with "Coffee, Tea and DBG." Sample coffees and teas, including herbal varieties, and learn about these fascinating beverage plants.

In February learn about everyone's favorite treat—chocolate. Sample chocolates while learning about the cacao plant.

In March, you'll see floral displays and have the opportunity to make your own arrangement.

April and May highlight tropical plants, and you'll discover foods from around the world.

Each program features a make-it and take-it activity for children. All programs are free to members; nonmembers pay only standard gate admission. For information call 370-8041.

'Great Garden' photo contest planned for '97

Picture a great garden scene, then picture yourself a winner of a Pentax 35mm camera, film, photo developing services from Robert Waxman's or a DBG membership. Shutterbugs should take note—Denver Botanic Gardens' "Picture a Great Garden" photo contest is on the 1997 calendar.

The contest is open to amateur photographers who have taken pictures at one of DBG's four facilities: the Gardens at 1005 York St., Chatfield Arboretum, Mount Goliath or Walter S. Reed Botanical Garden. Photos must be between the sizes of 5"x7" and 11"x17" and do not need to be mounted. A \$5 entry fee per photo (\$3 in the youth division) will help defray the cost of the contest and show.

Adults and children will be competing for first-, second-, third- and fourth-place prizes. Outstanding entries will be mounted and displayed in a photo show in John C. Mitchell II Hall March 18 to 24.

For complete information or an entry form, which includes directions to the four DBG sites, call 370-8018 or drop by the DBG Lobby Court.

Plant Sale Poster Contest deadline nears

Deadline to submit entries for the Plant and Book Sale Poster Contest is Jan. 6, 1997.

The winning artist will receive \$1,000 and 200 copies of the poster. The winning work will be auctioned for the benefit of the Gardens during the Plant and Book Sale May 8 to 10. The contest is open to all Colorado residents.

Entries must be the following media: oil, acrylic, egg tempera, watercolor or pastel. They should have a botanical or horticultural subject and must be 30 inches by 30 inches or smaller. Entries must be submitted in slide form. Each artist may submit up to three entries. There is a \$5 per slide entry fee.

Complete rules and entry forms are available in DBG's Lobby Court, or call 370-8018.

Blossoms concerts...

(Continued from page 1)

bands, including the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. His unique sounds will be paired with the bluegrass rhythm of Southern Exposure for an unforgettable night of fun.

Finally, the Paul Warburton Quartet puts the finishing touches on your holiday season Dec. 26. Bass player Warburton groups up with Ron Miles on the trumpet, Eric Gunnison on the piano and drummer Nat Yarbrough to provide an evening of jazz—a relaxing anecdote to the holidays.

Concert-goers are encouraged to come early and enjoy the beautiful light displays before the music begins.

All concerts are from 7 to 9 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Tickets for the Wind Machine performances are \$12 for qualifying members (Arbor Circle level and above), \$14 for nonmembers. All other concerts cost \$11 for qualifying members, \$13 for nonmembers. Seating is very limited; call 370-8187 to reserve your ticket.

Garden design symposium at DBG

DBG and *Horticulture* magazine will bring four of the nation's top gardening experts to the Gardens in "Strong Bones: The Foundation of a Great Garden" Thursday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in John C. Mitchell II Hall. Then, on Friday, Feb. 7, DBG will host a regional workshop with local garden designers.

Thursday's program will show how to organize, plant and highlight the space in your garden. It will feature national experts Wayne Winterrowd, J.C. Raulston, Gordon Hayward and Jan Moyer. Talks by Denver designers Diane Ipsen and Alan Rollinger will round out the day.

On Friday, local gardening experts Rob Proctor, David Macke, Panayoti Kelaidis and Joe Tomocik will help you complete laying the foundations of a great garden.

The two-day symposium is for amateur gardeners, landscape designers and nursery and garden center professionals. You will be receiving a brochure with complete information and a registration form in the mail. For more information call 370-8020.

First Data a corporate friend

First Data Corporation has been an enthusiastic supporter of Denver Botanic Gardens since 1993. First Data's corporate membership contribution demonstrates its commitment to the Denver community and the programs and services offered at the Gardens.

First Data Corporation provides information processing services to financial institutions, merchants, insurance companies, government agencies, public utilities and consumers throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and more than 130 other countries around the world.

We're proud to count First Data Corporation as a corporate member of DBG, and we're grateful for its continued support.

Center for Plant Conservation visits the Gardens

The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) held its annual meeting at the Gardens Oct. 3 to 5.

Representatives from 18 participating institutions, trustees and CPC staff visited DBG to discuss strategies for the upcoming year and give presentations about their own conservation programs.

The 1995 and 1996 Beattie Fellows also presented papers on their research. The Beattie Fellowship of the Garden Club of America is awarded annually to graduate students conducting research on endangered plants of the southeastern United States.

During the meeting it was announced that there are three new participating institutions: Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The meeting concluded with a field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park.

CPC is the only national organization solely devoted to conserving the rare plant species of the U.S. Headquartered at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, the CPC consists of a network of 28 botanical gardens and arboreta located in different regions of the U.S. Each garden is responsible for developing propagation methods and long-term seed storage, maintaining a National Collection of Endangered Plants and implementing a conservation strategy for rare plants native to their region.

While here, CPC board chairman William Truslow and president and executive director Dr. Brien Meilleur accepted an award on behalf of the CPC, the Denver Botanic Gardens Medal, at DBG's inaugural Awards Presentation.

How to select a perfect Christmas tree

Since most Christmas trees today are produced on commercial "tree farms," environmentally conscious buyers should have no more qualms purchasing a cut tree than they would a head of lettuce. Nevertheless, caveat emptor is the rule in selecting a good one.

Many "farmed" trees are produced in distant states and may be cut weeks before the holiday season. Christmas tree growers are not trying to pass off a stale product; rather volume and potentially snowy late autumn weather require that tree harvest begins soon after the first hard frosts.

A fresh tree has needles that are not dry, shriveled or faded in color. Although some drying in the lower interior of the tree may be considered normal, dry needles at the branch tips and top identify a tree to avoid. With consideration to species, the needles of the tree should be reasonably flexible, not brittle.

Some species' needles are quickly weakened at their points of attachment to the twigs as soon as drying occurs. Such trees are easily identified with the "shock test." While holding onto the trunk in the center of the tree, lift the tree about one and a half feet off the ground and let it fall, hitting the trunk base on hard ground or pavement. If too many green needles shake from the tree, keep shopping. This test is especially revealing on spruce and Douglas fir trees.

Farmed Christmas trees often are sprayed with green color. This does not necessarily signal a poor tree. These sprays not only enhance needle color but also help keep the trees fresh and may even include fire retardants.

Popular conifer species for use as Christmas trees include Scots pine, Norway spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, noble fir and white fir. Engelmann and blue spruce, as well as pinyon, lodgepole and ponderosa pine also turn up frequently in local tree lots. Any of these can make a fine Christmas tree.

Gift certificates for Colorado gardeners

Gardening in Colorado is challenging as well as rewarding. Denver Botanic Gardens offers a wide range of classes specially suited for gardening in this region, and gift certificates for gardening classes are available.

Classes are taught by local experts: DBG staff, green industry professionals and regional experts in horticulture. Instructors emphasize matching plants to appropriate environments. Techniques that work in other areas of the country, or even the state, need to be reinterpreted for Front Range gardening. Our high light, alkaline soils, low humidity, low precipitation, temperature swings and weather catastrophes, such as hail, are offset by vivid colors, few diseases and numerous days suitable for gardening.

This winter and spring the DBG education department will offer classes in horticulture, botany, natural history, horticultural therapy, floral arts and more. Please call the registration office, 370-8020 or 370-8019, to purchase a gift certificate or to sign up for a class.



Gardener's Glossary

Fastigate: A narrow plant form characterized by branches that grow upright and very close together. Horticultural selections of such trees and shrubs abound. These fastigate Scots pines (*Pinus sylvestris* 'Fastigiata') grow near the DBG Herb Garden. Nature's "exclamation points" can add a dramatic accent in the garden but are easy to overuse. Note, too, that such narrow branching habits can be particularly vulnerable to breakage in heavy snows.

December 1, 1996

Dear Valued Member,

As a member of Denver Botanic Gardens, you share a special connection to us. You know that we are a beautiful place and so much more—a scientific research facility, a wonderful educational resource, and a leader in identifying and preserving rare and endangered plants.

I am writing today to invite your year-end gift in support of our many programs and displays. Your gift will be an investment in the Gardens. It will help to ensure that: schoolchildren are taught to value the environment; disabled people and professionals who work with them learn of the therapeutic value of contact with plants; advances in horticulture increase the diversity of commercially available plants suited for this region; endangered plant species are saved.

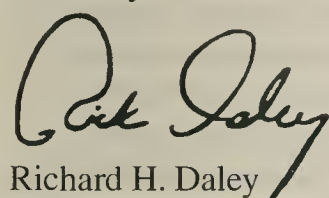
Your gift also will support: the Perennial Walk which will bloom for three full seasons of color and beauty while demonstrating a unique garden design; the Conservatory renovation which will provide interesting and relevant exhibits about the tropics; and an informational display which will help visitors understand all they encounter at the Gardens.

While a gift to the Gardens is an investment in our strength, it can also make a difference in your personal future—charitable gifts made by December 31 are deductible in 1996.

Your generous gift of \$100, \$50, \$25 or another amount will help us share the beauty of plants with others. I hope you will complete the attached gift coupon and mail it with your check today.

Happy holidays to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Daley
Executive Director

P.S. If you have already sent a gift please accept my sincerest thanks.



YES, I want to share the beauty of plants with others. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____

☐ My company's corporate matching gift form is enclosed

Please use my gift: ☐ where the need is greatest ☐ for horticultural displays
☐ for educational programs ☐ for plant research

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

☐ My check is enclosed payable to Denver Botanic Gardens

I prefer to charge my gift to:
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Account # _____ Exp. _____

Name as it appears on the card _____

Signature _____

Gifts of appreciated property/securities are welcome. Call your broker or DBG, 370-8027

DBG's improvement projects begin next month

When, nearly a half-century ago, a group of Colorado visionaries began creating Denver Botanic Gardens, their goal was a world-class botanical center for the Rocky Mountain region. In the relatively short period of time since, DBG has become one of America's most respected public gardens. Of the 400 botanical gardens in the United States, DBG is one of only a dozen that are accredited, and only a half-dozen have the membership, attendance and volunteer base DBG has.

DBG is committed to maintaining and enhancing its position among America's botanical gardens, a position that has enabled DBG to set a national example for services to the local, regional and national community. To enable DBG to maintain its preeminence, the Gardens has developed a variety of new and enhancing improvements.

These projects were selected after careful evaluation of the highest priorities consistent with the Gardens' mission of horticultural, educational and research excellence. After many formal and informal conversations with community members, the projects and priorities have been adjusted to minimize their impact on the neighborhoods surrounding the Gardens—while still serving the needs of the Gardens and its regional and national audiences.

The response from donors and members of the Gardens to these projects has been overwhelmingly positive, with \$7,218,000 in private gifts and grants committed toward them.

In August DBG received final approval from the City Planning Board and the Manager of Parks and Recreation for the improvement projects. We hope the following project descriptions will be useful to you in the coming months as you plan your visits to the Gardens. Though temporary closures of parts of the facility may be inconvenient, we're confident that the end product will justify the means, and you'll be more proud than ever to be a member of Denver Botanic Gardens.

The first two projects, the Conservatory and Gift Shop renovations, will begin soon. Be sure to visit before their closures, and plan a special trip back when they reopen.

The Conservatory

Since its construction in 1966, Boettcher Memorial Conservatory has been the signature architectural feature of the Gardens. It is the principal visitor attraction from fall until spring and the primary display space for tropical plants from around the world. It is a major teaching resource for students of all ages. In light of the increasing destruction of tropical rainforests, educating people about tropical plants and ecosystems has become even more critical; the Conservatory has thus acquired additional education and cultural significance.

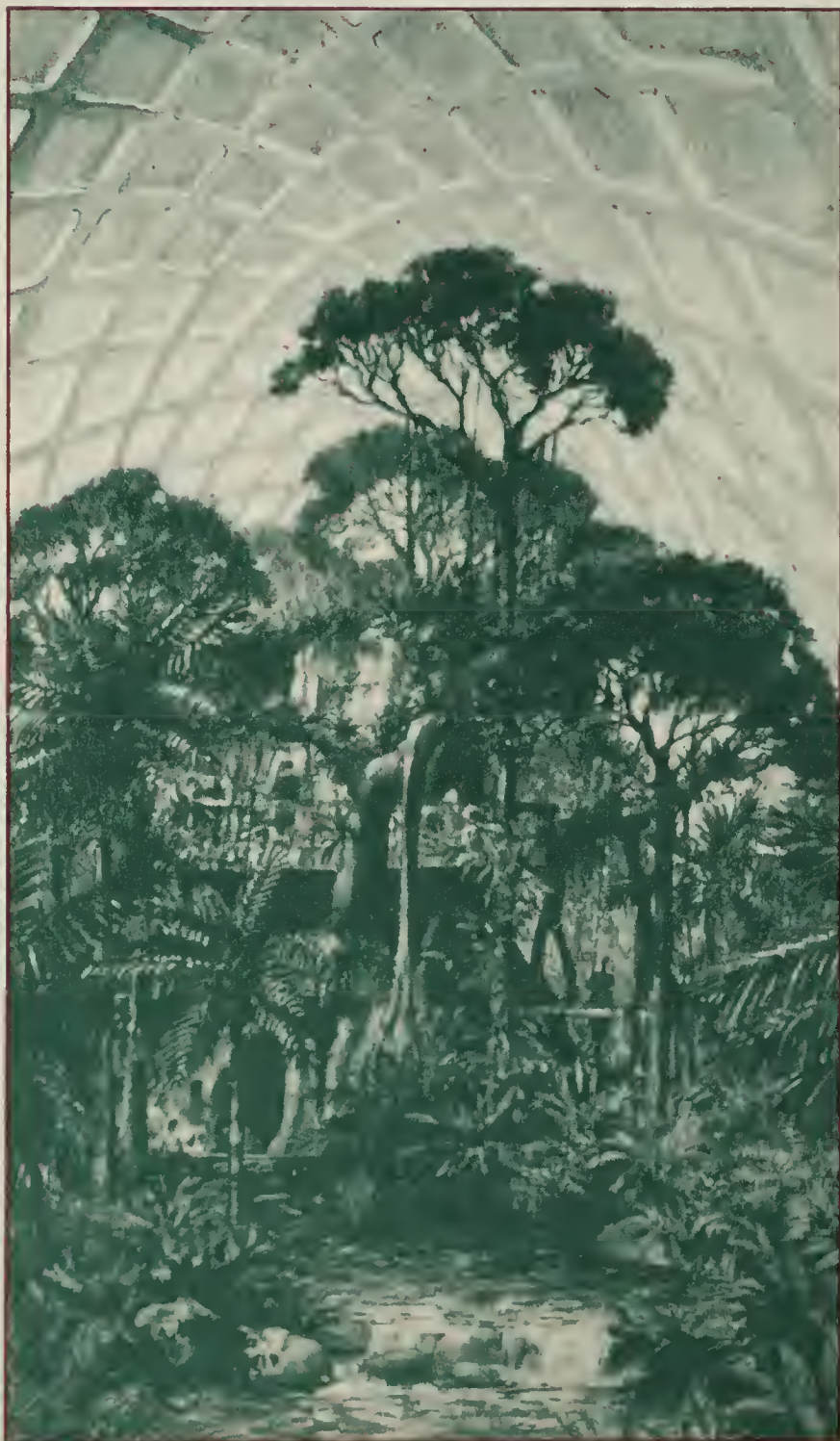
Although its exterior will remain unchanged, interior changes and improvements will be fundamental. Major portions of the electrical and mechanical systems will be replaced, making the structure fully functional—and improving the growing conditions dramatically.

An elevator will be installed to make the Conservatory accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. In keeping with the building's tropical atmosphere, the elevator will be disguised inside a banyan tree that also will serve as a planting platform for epiphytes—orchids, bromeliads, ferns and other plants that grow on the surface of plants.

With its improved growing conditions the Conservatory will offer a more diverse and more beautiful display, accessible to all. We will modify the plants and their interpretation to give Denver one of the most exciting and compelling displays of tropical plants and ecosystems anywhere outside the tropics. Significant funding for the renovation is being provided by the Boettcher Foundation. Other major donors include the Pauline A. and George R. Morrison Charitable Trust and the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation.

The Conservatory is scheduled to close mid-February. Many of the tropical plants will be used in Lobby Court displays and at DBG's garden at the Colorado Garden and Home Show. Some plants will be donated to local schools for their greenhouses. Still others will continue to thrive in DBG's production greenhouses until the reopening.

The Conservatory is scheduled to reopen in early 1998. While it is closed, be sure to visit the Rock Alpine Garden and Japanese Garden, both of which are beautiful throughout the winter, and the Lobby Court display, which will change periodically to reflect new horticultural themes.



The Gift Shop

The DBG Gift Shop provides the Gardens with earned income from the sale of unusual, high-quality botanically related gift items and botanical and horticultural books. It also provides an added visitor experience—important to many who come to the Gardens.

The current shop is relatively small, however, with only about 800 square feet of space. The most reasonable way to expand the shop is to move its south wall about 10 feet further south. This will increase the sales area by about 400 square feet, enabling it to offer a variety of unusual plants on a continual basis—a universally expected service at botanical gardens. With the expansion of the Gift Shop, food service during the summer will be moved temporarily to the sunken garden east of the Gift Shop. Eventual changes in the Education Building will provide year-round visitor food service.

The Gift Shop is scheduled to close in early January. Much of the inventory will be offered at reduced prices Dec. 13 through 16, and it will be open every evening during “Blossoms of Light.” The Gift Shop will reopen in April, with hundreds of new and exciting items for sale.

The Romantic Gardens

The Romantic Gardens will be a series of gardens and distinctive garden features in the southeast corner of the York Street site. They will be designed to excite the visual and olfactory senses and to provide new horticultural and landscape displays and new educational opportunities.

The Romantic Gardens will be designed in the style of garden rooms. Each area is special and relatively small. This will allow visitors to gain a sense of diversity and intimacy of space. There will be six component gardens: the Perennial Walk, the Fragrance Garden, the Waterway Garden, the Courtyard Garden, the Temperate Greenhouse and the Entrance Court. In 1997, construction of the Perennial Walk, given by the Martin J. and Mary Anne O’Fallon Trust, will be completed, and we will begin construction of the next three features.

The Fragrance Garden, given by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taplin, will excite the olfactory as well as the visual senses. It will be a rich, intensely maintained horticultural display of plants that are both beautiful and fragrant. Its plants will attract a variety of pollinators that will enhance educational opportunities as well as the garden’s aesthetic qualities.

The Waterway Garden, with major support from the El Pomar Foundation, will be designed with an elegant, simple waterway and specimen trees. A long, narrow, shimmering pool of water coming from a waterfall on Anna’s Overlook will reflect a refined pathway flanked by a series of specimen trees selected for their beauty and architectural form.

The Courtyard Garden, with major support from the Schlessman Family Foundation and the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, will provide a place where people can gather, sit, relax and enjoy surrounding views. From spring through fall container plants will provide color and shade. In winter the Courtyard Garden will reflect sunlight, providing warm spaces for outdoor cold-weather enjoyment.

Construction of these three features will continue throughout 1997, with plantings scheduled to be completed by spring 1998.



The Parking Lot

DBG recognizes that its current 94-space parking lot is too small so, with financial support from the Pauline A. and George R. Morrison Charitable Trust, we have developed a parking solution that offers substantial improvements over the current situation. This involves straightening York Street between the Gardens' main entrance and one block south, near the staff parking entrance behind the Botanic Gardens House. By straightening York Street, the current parking area between York and Josephine will be expanded by two middle lanes and additional spaces at the north end of the lot.

This surface expansion will provide some 200 spaces, an increase of 114 percent. Beyond this, additional bus parking will be made available on the west side of Josephine Street. The east side of York Street will be used for short-term (30-minute) parking to allow visitors to be dropped off and picked up without occupying spaces in the main lot.

At no point will the current parking lot be completely closed. The construction crew will keep open half of the lot while they work on the other half. The construction is planned to begin in March 1997, a relatively slow time of year for traffic at the Gardens. The renovated lot should be completely finished for the Plant and Book Sale in May.

The Education Building

DBG's research, library and educational functions are centered in the Boettcher Education Center. These activities need additional space. The Education Building also houses most of the Gardens' visitor services, including the information desk; the lobby court, used for a variety of purposes; and John C. Mitchell II Hall, DBG's main multipurpose hall.

A north wing will be added, designed compatibly with the design of the existing building. It will include on the main level a new indoor horticulture courtyard, an adjacent multipurpose room to be used during the day for visitor food service, and a kitchen. Other changes include added storage space, moving the two herbaria to a new research addition and remodeling existing space for more classrooms and library space.

No dates have been set for the Education Building improvements.

The implementation of these projects is a much needed effort to take the Gardens into the next century. The underlying concept of the plan is to reaffirm our mission to advance education about and enjoyment of plants and to make certain that, as community needs change, the Gardens is able to serve its audience well.

Watch future issues of *Green Thumb News* for updates on the progress of these exciting projects.



Following are books or magazines that DBG staff members recommend for holiday gifts.

Gardening from the Heart: Why Gardeners Garden by Carol Olwell (Antelope Island, 1990, \$24.95, 0-917946-04-9). Janet Laminack, horticultural therapy specialist, recommends this book because it has wonderful stories of people who are passionate about gardening. There are glorious tales of community gardens, nurseries in the desert and a fruit orchard in a quarter-acre, along with the personalities that make them all happen.

Taylor's Guide to Orchids by Judy White (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996, \$19.95, 0-395-67726-2). Bronwyn Chaney, membership associate, recommends this book because it shows how to grow beautiful orchids in normal indoor conditions—no greenhouses necessary. It also has more than 50 pages of inspirational orchid photographs.

Poppies: The Poppy Family in the Wild and in Cultivation by Christopher Grey-Wilson (Portland, Ore: Timber Press, 1993, \$32.95, 0-88192-232-3). Susan Eubank, specialist librarian, has suppressed her desire to have every agave on earth, because they aren't hardy here. She is now trying to grow all the beautiful plants described in this book. She predicts poppies will be even more popular here because of Wilson's breezy writing style and his devotion to exposing more gardeners to a wide variety of plant

and flower forms in the poppy family. Can we find a meconopsis that would do well here? Wilson makes us want to try.

Rocky Mountain Flora by William A. Weber (University Press of Colorado, 1976, \$20, 0-87081-068-5). Krystal Kilgore, assistant in the marketing and special events department, recommends this book as a textbook for beginning plant identification courses. It has keys which appear a little technical at first, but with a little practice the book can make an amateur feel confident about knowing our mountain plants.

Veld & Flora magazine, Journal of the Botanical Society of South Africa (Botanical Society of South Africa, Kirstenbosch, Claremont 7735, R.S.A. \$26/year). Panayoti Kelaidis, DBG's Rock Alpine Garden curator, recommends a subscription to this magazine because it is a wonderful mix of in-depth articles, topical notices, frequent reports on brand new species, book reviews, portraits of people, projects and generally the tremendously exuberant life of the botanical community in South Africa. The magazine is published by the organization that supports the Botanical Research Institute of South Africa, best known for its extraordinary public garden Kirstenbosch in Cape Town.

For more information on any of these books or magazines, stop by DBG's Helen Fowler Library or Gift Shop.



DBG staff assists Poison Center

When requested, select DBG staff members assist the Rocky Mountain Poison Center in identification of plants and mushrooms. Recently, five DBG employees toured the RMPC facility and visited with their staff to learn more about their services and procedures. 24-hour telephone numbers for the Rocky Mountain Poison Center are (303) 629-1123 (Denver metro) or (800) 332-3073 (outside metro area).

Timely Tip:

It's surprising how many homeowners with yards full of mature evergreens and conifers purchase bundles of boughs for centerpieces or wreaths. Pruning your evergreens now can provide the freshest holiday greenery for your home at an unbeatable price.

Answers from Dr. Green

Here is a sample of the many questions received on DBG's Dr. Green plant information help line.

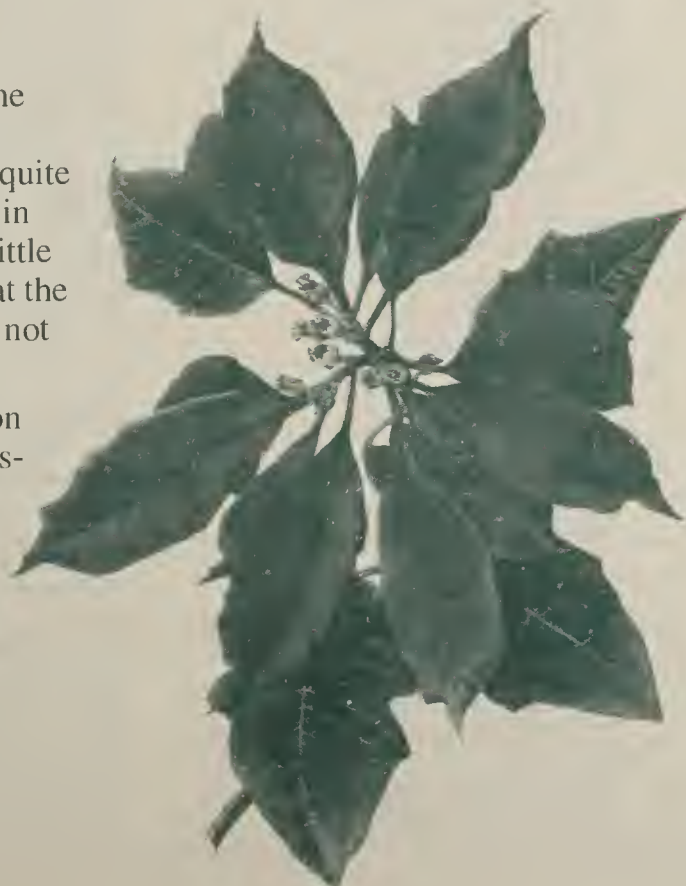
Q. Is it too late to prune back my hybrid tea roses?

A. No, in fact it is too early. Most local experts recommend waiting until early- to mid-spring to prune tea roses. As the new sprouts swell, you'll be able to easily identify and prune back to healthy, vigorous shoots. The amount of dieback varies with the severity of each winter and would be impossible to guess at this time.

Q. Is the poinsettia poisonous?

A. An apparent myth surrounds the toxic properties of the poinsettia. It is often listed among poisonous plants, yet studies indicate that standard greenhouse varieties have quite small or nonexistent levels of the active chemical found in most species of the genus *Euphorbia*. However there's little motivation to eat one, and every child should be taught at the earliest age never to ingest any plant or plant part that is not given to them by a trusted adult.

"Dr. Green" answers plant and gardening questions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., or leave a message anytime for a return call at (303) 370-8068.



Amazing activities at Park Meadows

Join DBG staff as we begin a new partnership with Children's Museum of Denver and The Amazing Space at Park Meadows. The Amazing Space, located in the lower level of United Artists Theatres' Starport, includes more than 50 interactive museum-quality exhibits and the nation's only personalized movie theater experience.

Creative workshops will be provided for children ages 3 to 9 during mall hours. The 90-minute programs include fun, creative activities and a take-home project. Parents have time to shop, dine or simply relax at Park Meadows — a welcome opportunity, particularly at the holidays.

Cost for each workshop is \$7.95 for preschool age and \$9.95 for school age children. A special Saturday evening program, three hours long, allows parents to catch a movie or dinner; the price is \$14.95. You may sign up for programs in advance or drop in if the class is not full.

Programming began Nov. 25. Preschool classes will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. daily, with an after-school workshop for 6- to 9-year-olds from 4:30 to 6 p.m. On weekends, Nov. 29 and during school winter breaks, programs will be offered several times throughout the day. For more information or to register, call The Amazing Space, 708-0000.

'Designs in Science' event this month

Join in the final "Designs in Science" program at Collage Children's Museum in Boulder Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You will closely investigate carnivorous plants, blow bubbles, investigate crystals, and get up close and personal with animal artifacts as you spend the day exploring the science of design. The National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) program highlights science in our everyday lives and is sponsored in part by the National Science Foundation.

NSTW events take place at Collage Children's Museum every day from Dec. 26 to 30 and are free with the price of admission: anyone older than 2, \$2.50; seniors \$1.50; family rate, \$8; and Collage members, free. For more information call Collage Children's Museum, 440-0053.

New supporters

Denver Botanic Gardens thanks those who began or renewed their memberships in the third quarter of 1996 at supporting levels:

Perennial Partners

Mrs. Elsa A. Burrows
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Grant, III

Conservator's Society

Mr. & Mrs. David Crowder
Mr. Peter DuCharme
Ms. Mary C. Gray & Doreen Gray
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Haydon
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan H. Holben
Ms. Irene Hubert
Ms. Ruth S. Kobey
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mazer
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Ms. Ann Thacker
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Thomas
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Mr. Kirk Weber & Robin Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. William Weil
Mr. & Mrs. Jon W. Winter
Mr. & Mrs. John Wolter
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Wood
Dr. & Mrs. John F. Yost
Ms. M. Jeanne Zaighum & Mr. Giles M. Armstrong
Ms. Tracy Zarlengo & Mr. Tim Zarlengo
Ms. Gail Zucker & Mr. Kenneth Wolf

From your membership office

Memberships make great gifts

Denver Botanic Gardens gift memberships are still available by calling 370-8029 with your Visa or MasterCard number, or see the form in this month's *Green Thumb News*. Remember, all gifts at the \$50-level or above, will receive a \$5 gift shop certificate good through the end of 1996. DBG memberships make great gifts for family members or neighbors who share your love for plants.

Members receive discounts at Blossoms of Light

Don't forget that members receive a discount on admission to "Blossoms of Light" all month. Members are invited to enjoy one evening of festivities free (be sure to clip the coupon on this page). Then, during any return visits, members are charged just \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors 65 and older or youth 6 to 15. Children 5 and younger are admitted free.

Additionally, members at the \$50-level and above are eligible for \$2 per ticket discounts on Holiday Concert tickets. For more information about your member benefits during the holiday season, call 370-8029.

Tributes

In memory of Willa Mae Brooks

Shawn Colleary and Shirley Weddel

In memory of Richard G. Daley

Mr. and Mrs. C. Wills Long

In memory of William Garrison

Ms. Clinna C. Baudek

In memory of Mark Linderholm

Ms. Rosemary Laughlin

In memory of Beulah Johnson Lloyd

Crestmoor Park Garden Club

In memory of Dr. Johann Marx

Ms. Betty Broadhurst

Birthdays...Anniversaries...Memorials...

You can make a contribution to the Gardens in memory or in honor of someone you love. It's a thoughtful tribute and a helpful gift to our institution. Please call (303) 370-8064 for more information.



Blossoms of Light
1996

**This coupon admits two adults
and two children to any evening
of Blossoms of Light**

December 7 through 31, 6 to 9 p.m.

Present to cashier at 1005 York Street

Member number, name and address must appear on reverse. Members may purchase additional tickets at a discounted price.

Give a DBG Membership!

GENERAL BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Free admission to York Street and Chatfield facilities
- Discounts on classes, in Gift Shop, at Plant & Book Sale
- Free guest passes (according to level of membership)
- Publications including newsletters and class listings
- Free events and special invitations
- And lots more...please see benefits brochure for details.

☐ The Landscaper – \$35 – Admits member and one guest each visit.

☐ The Arbor Circle – \$50 – Two member cards, each card admits three; summer concert discounts.

☐ The Botanist Club – \$120 – Same benefits as Arbor Circle PLUS four free summer concert tickets, merchant discounts and a breakfast in the Gardens.

☐ The Gardener – \$25 – Admits one (seniors, age 65, may ask for one extra guest pass each visit)

Please send a gift membership to:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

WorkPhone _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Sign gift card

Gift card ☐ taken, or mail ☐ to recipient ☐ to me, by (date) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to Denver Botanic Gardens. Charge membership to ☐ VISA ☐ MC

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Recipients receive a card informing them of your gift plus a free plant that may be picked up at the Gardens.

Please return this form with payment to:

Denver Botanic Gardens Membership Office Dept. 251, Denver, CO 80291-0251

Questions or to order by phone call 370-8029.

December

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Inside this Green Thumb News

Applications are available for DBG summer internships.
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Hort. staff offers guidelines for selecting a perfect Christmas tree.
page 4

Take a look at DBG's planned improvement projects.
page 6

Don't forget to clip your member coupon to "Blossoms of Light."
page 11

Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80206-3799

Address correction requested

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25T25

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Coming Up:

December

- 3 *Holiday Birch Wreath*
Advanced Drawing and Composition I & II
Beginning Pen and Ink Illustration
- 4&5 Herald the Season — for members only
- 5 Gardeners of America meeting
- 6 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
Tree Decorations — It's for the Birds
- 7 Tree-mendous Kickoff at Chatfield Arboretum
Teddy Bear Teas
Blossoms of Light opening ceremonies
Water Garden Society holiday party and meeting
Holiday Evergreen Swags
- 7-31 Blossoms of Light Holiday Festival
- 11 Holiday Concert: Wind Machine
- 12 Holiday Concert: Wind Machine
- 14 Rocky Mountain Orchid Judging Society meeting
Teddy Bear Teas
- 18 Holiday Concert: Conjunto Colores
- 19 Holiday Concert: Jim Salestrom and Southern Exposure
- 26 Holiday Concert: The Paul Warburton Quartet
- 26-30 Designs in Science at Collage Children's Museum

January

- 3 Free Day at Chatfield Arboretum
- 18-20 Incredible Edibles: Coffee, Tea & DBG
- 26 New Member Party



Note: Classes are in *italics*. An asterisk * indicates the first meeting of a class with more than one session.